Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

8

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

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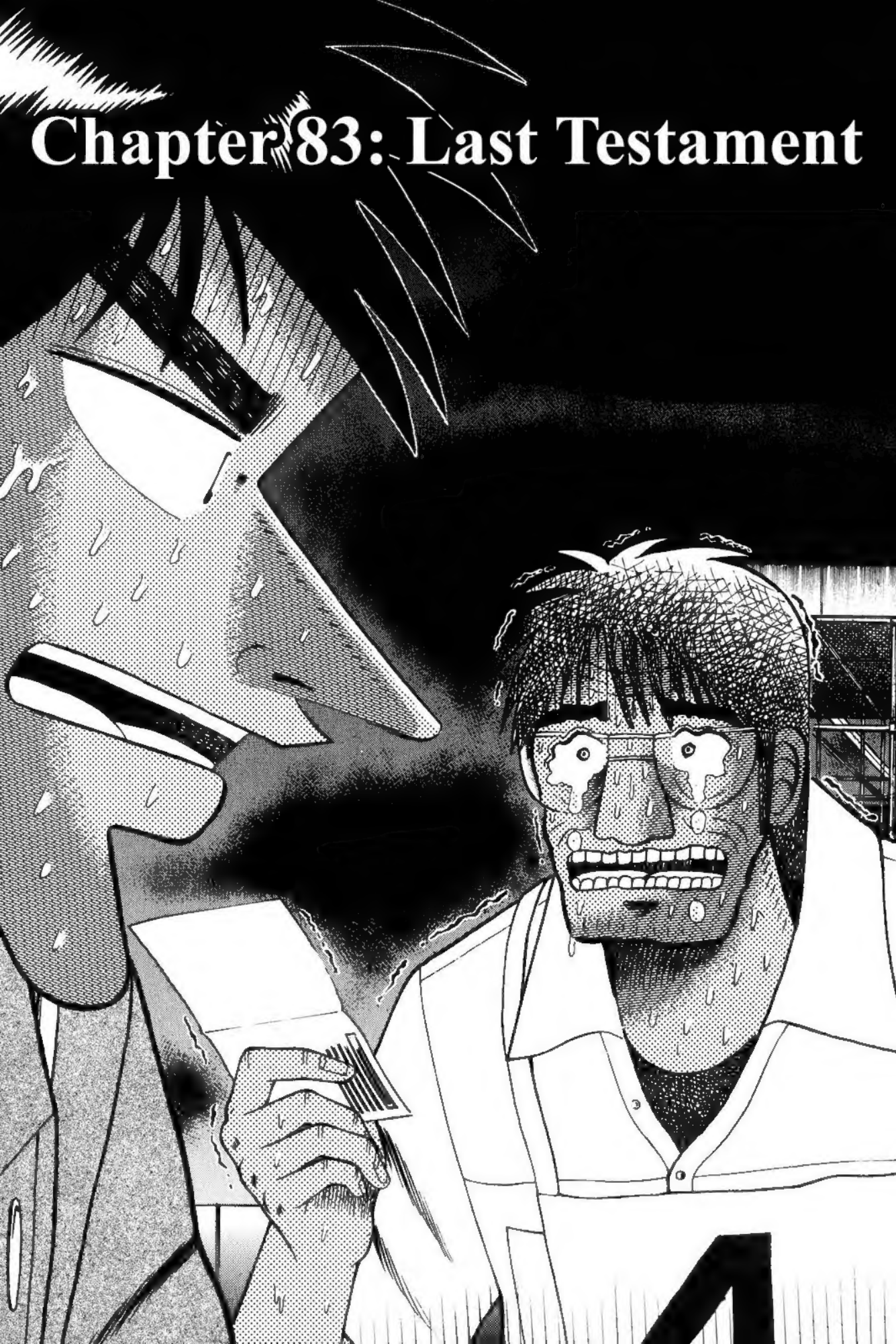
Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

Chapter 83: Last Testament



.....
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
Why are you showing me your ticket...?
What are you doing ...?
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
Kaiji-kun...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Kaiji-kun...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
4
I want you to take it ...!
SOB

...to cash in this ticket...
...but I want you...
I know it's selfish ...
Huh ...?
.....
I've never done anything right...
...and hand the money over in my place.
And it's all my fault...
TREMBLE
She's been living with all this debt...
My poor wife...
My wife ...
Knock it off ...!
You can find her on the Nishi-Keiyo line... near Shintomishita Station... at the...
4
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
4

...then now's the time to start!
If you've never done anything right...
Snap out of it...!
What are you talking about...!?
If you've let her down in the past ...
You're crossing this bridge...!
With your own two hands...!
You ...!
Cross this bridge and bring her the money ...!
...then you have to cross this bridge!
You do it...!
SOB

You ...!
SOB
SOB

SOB

Kaiji-kun...
Are you trying to get yourself killed...!?

It's too late, already ...
I've just gotta face it ...

I can't ...
I'm no good ...
Man up, already ...!

SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
There are two kinds of people in this world...

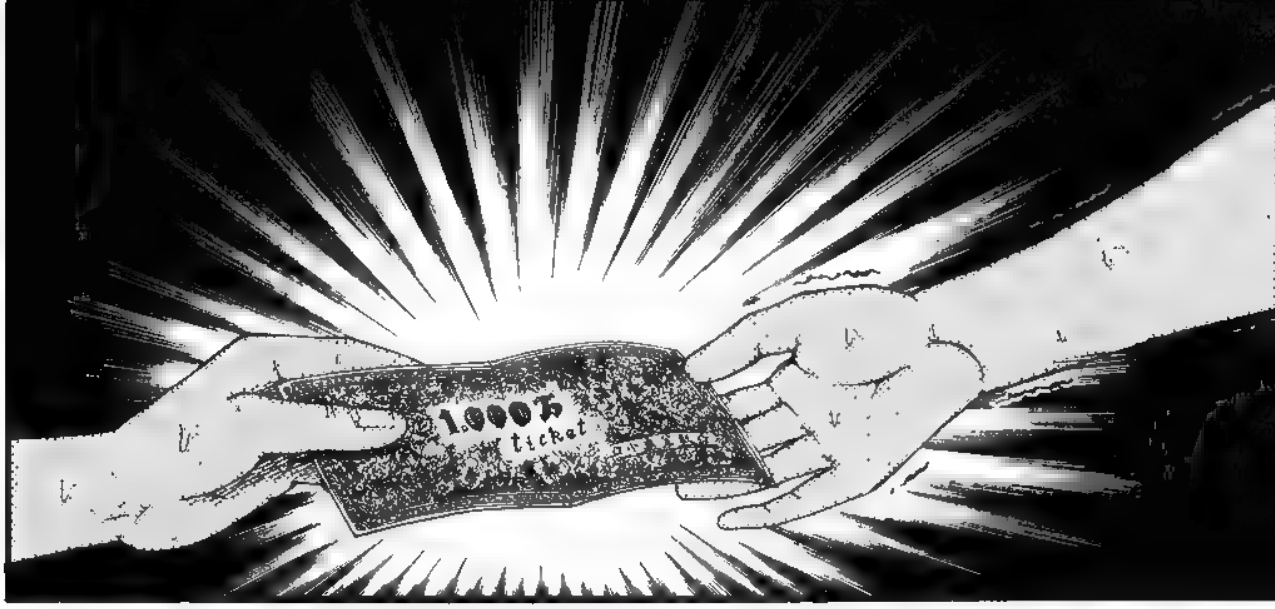
...and those who fight back.
I...
Those who break under the pressure, and lose to fear...

...I keep seeing myself fall instead.
Every time I try to move forward ...
I just can't get these negative thoughts out of my head...
I'm one of the cowards ...
I'm no good...

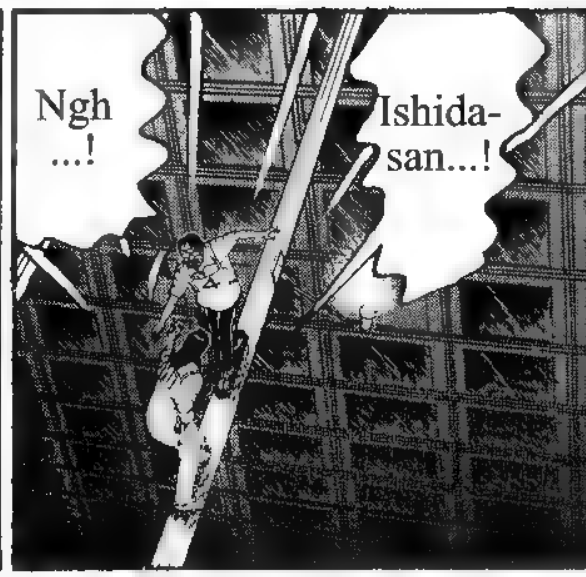
...in one place.
It's taking all I've got just to stand here...
I really can't ...
I can't stop shaking ...
SOB
But Kaiji-kun...
You're different ...!
You ...
SOB
SOB
SOB

...you refused to back down.
...every time the going got tough...
...and here, now...
Back on the boat ...
You can succeed ...!
I know I can count on you...!
If anyone can do it you can, Kaiji-kun...
You've got real guts...
In order to hide from the loan sharks...
PACHINKO
ASAHI HALL
There's a pachinko parlor called Asahi Hall...
...and once you've crossed ...
Please, take it...
...go to Shintomishita Station.
Cash this ticket ...
1000 Ticket
...under the name Yasuda.
...my wife, Hiromi Ishida, works there...

Ishida-san...
You can save her...!
She'll be free of the debt...
If you do that...
Please ...
.....
...and give her the money.
Aiee ...!
Aiee ...!
Your wife...
D-Don't you see...?
STAGGER
Quickly ...!
Ahhh ...
Quickly ...!
Take it...!
T...
Ahh ...!


1,000万
ticket

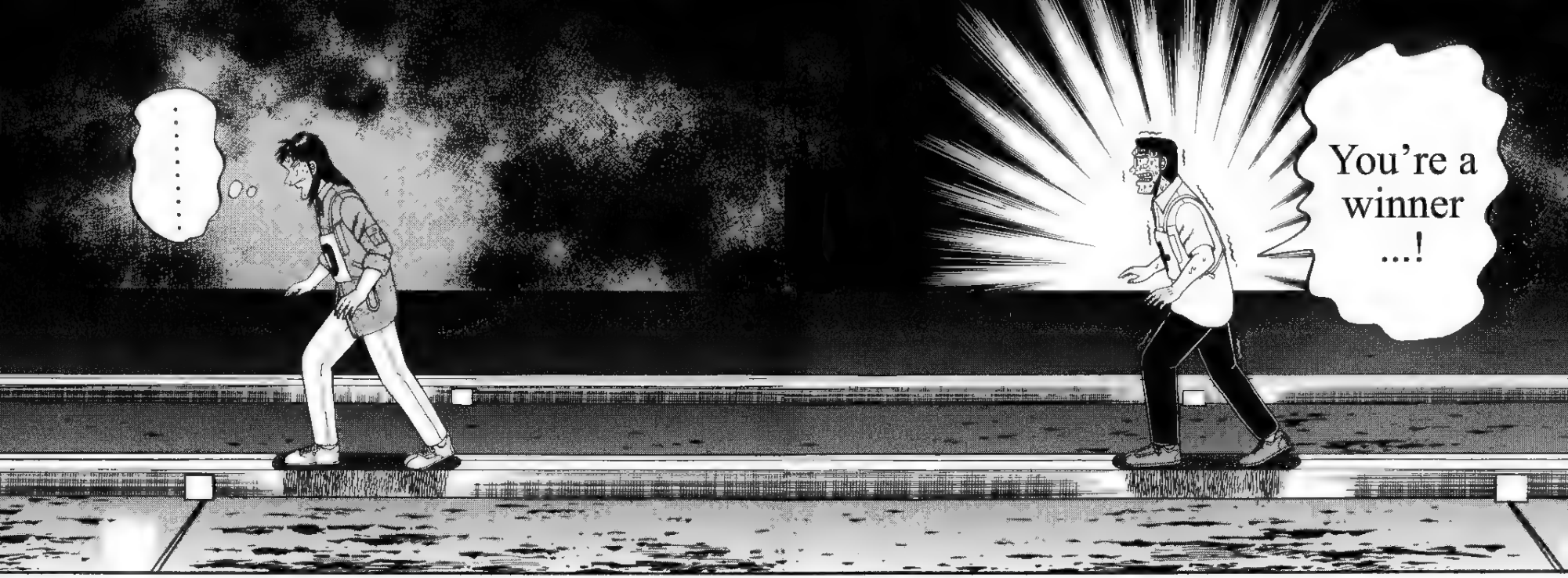
Just go...!
Forget about me...
You've got it, now go...!

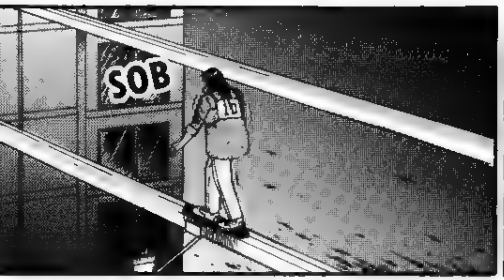

Ngh ...!
Ishida-san...!

If you see me fall...

Don't you dare look back...!
And don't look back...

Just keep your eyes forward...
SOB
SOB
Don't do it...don't do something so stupid ...
So ...
...I know it would unnerve you
Win...!
.....
...and go...
SOB
But I've already failed...
People are nothing if they don't succeed...?
Win ...!
Kaiji-kun...
You shouldn't lead the kind of life I have...
...one meaningless wreck.
I've failed... my whole life has been pointless ...
Kaiji-kun...


.....
You're a winner ...!

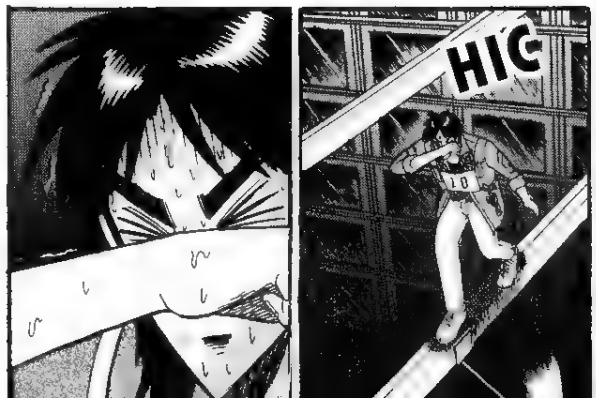

SOB

SOB
SOB

He's wrong ...!

SOB
SOB
SOB
I've failed... my whole life has been pointless...
10

...Kaiji-kun!
SOB
SOB
SOB


HIC
10

Win, Kaiji-kun...!
So go win ...
You can do it...
4

Another nouveau riche...
Ishida-san could have been a big success...
He did make something of himself ...!
It wasn't pointless ...!
10
But instead ...
Not even on his own death bed...
Not a passing thought for any other...
...who thinks of no one but himself, until the day he dies...
...is what really matters!
That ...
...Ishida-san was worried for others, not himself.
HAH...
HAH...
...heart and soul...
...in his last moments ...
HAH...
10

SOB

He was successful ...!
He did make something of himself...!
HAH

That's right ...!

SOB
SOB

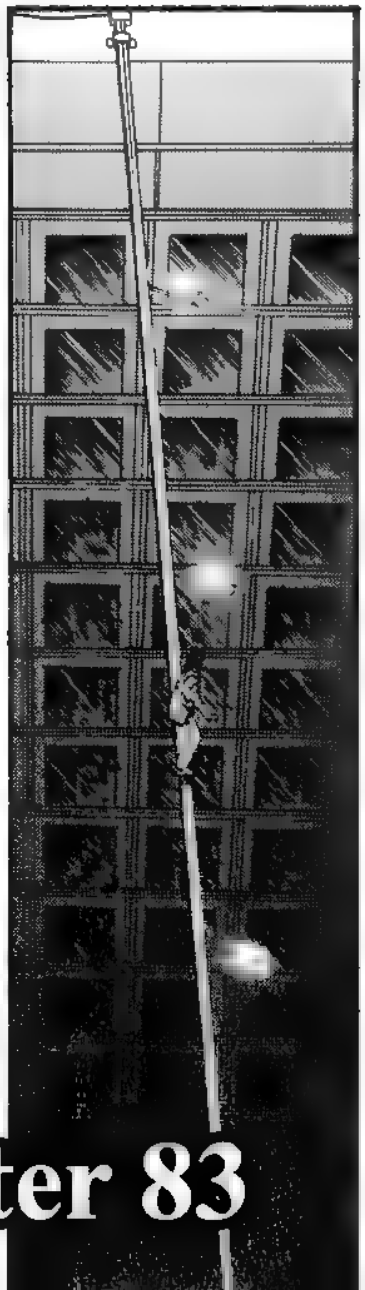
These words ...
It's absolutely not true that his life was meaningless...!

It's not true...
A spectacular success...!
HAH
10

...are what Kaiji wished to say.
SOB
...might be facing death...
...in his final moments, now that Ishida-san...
At the very least...
...Kaiji wanted to tell him...

Indeed, Ishida-san...
That he hadn't been a loser...
That there was nothing pointless about his life...
...that he wasn't a failure!
...had been a winner!
10
He had won...
Ishida-san...!
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
He had won, spectacularly ...!

10

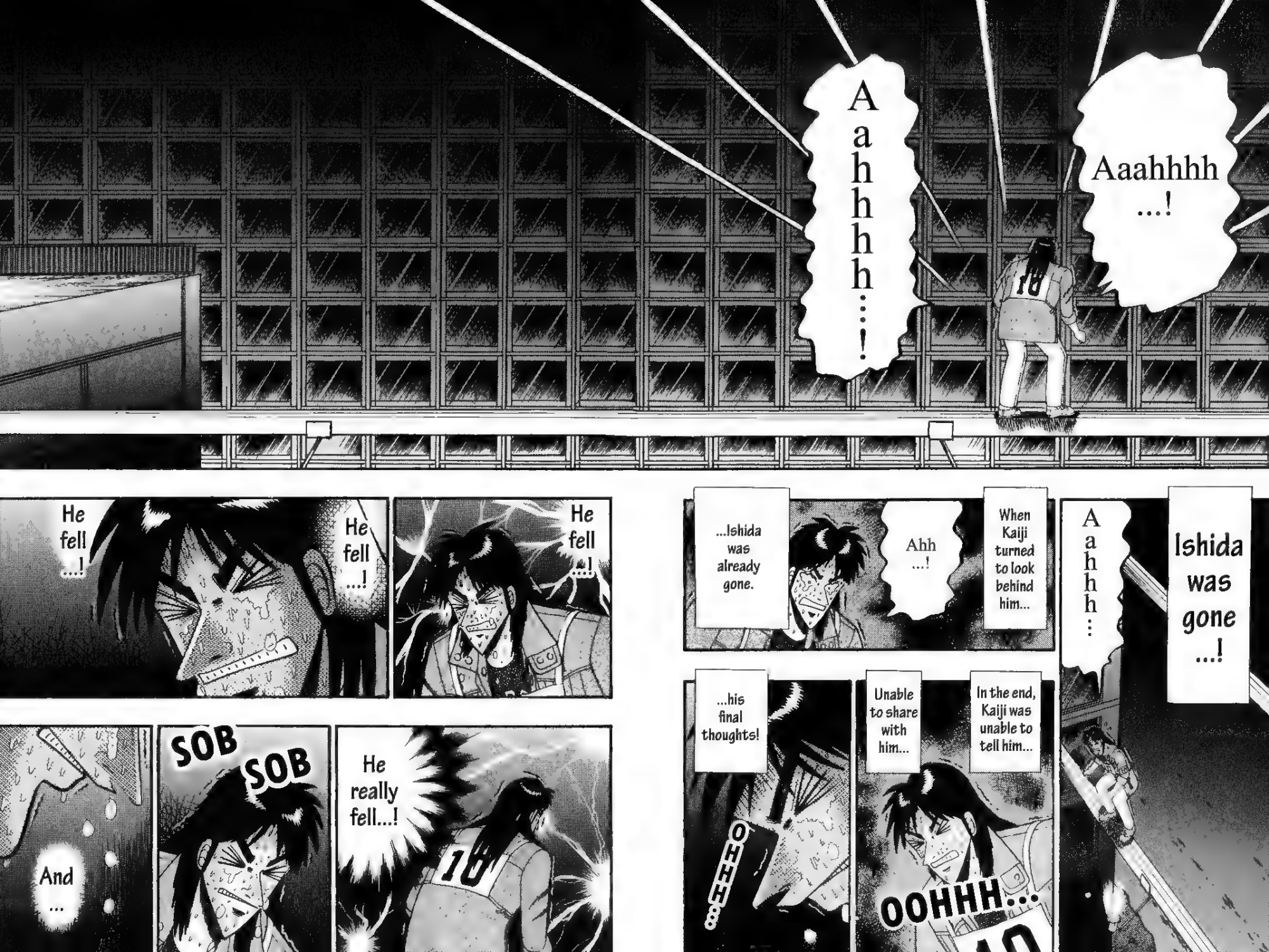


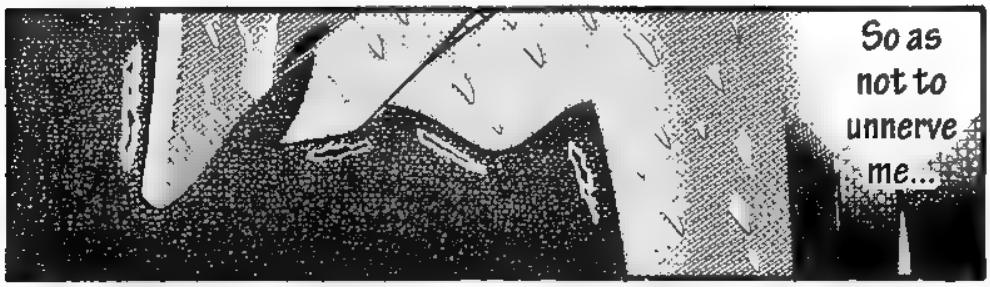
Ah ...!

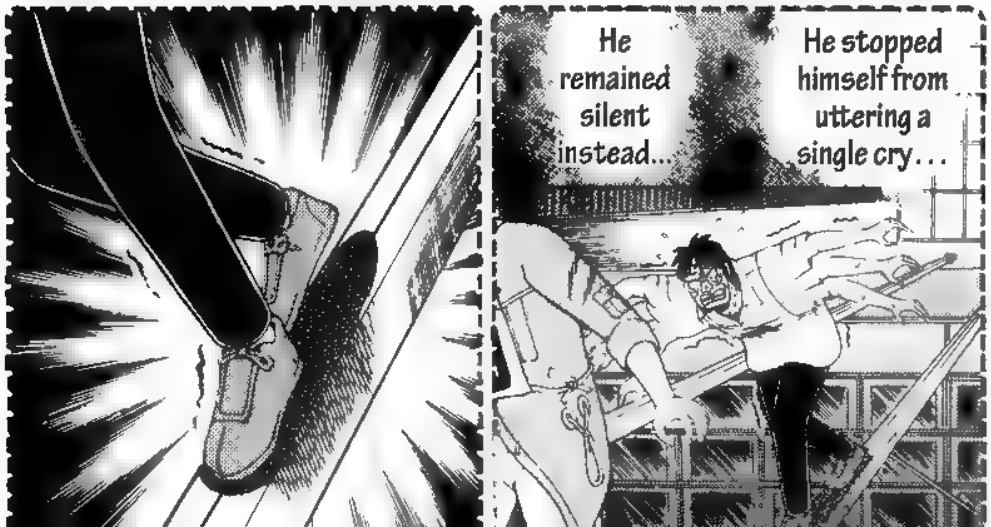
End of Chapter 83

Chapter 84: Howl

Aaahhhh!
He was gone ...
AAAAHHH
Aaa

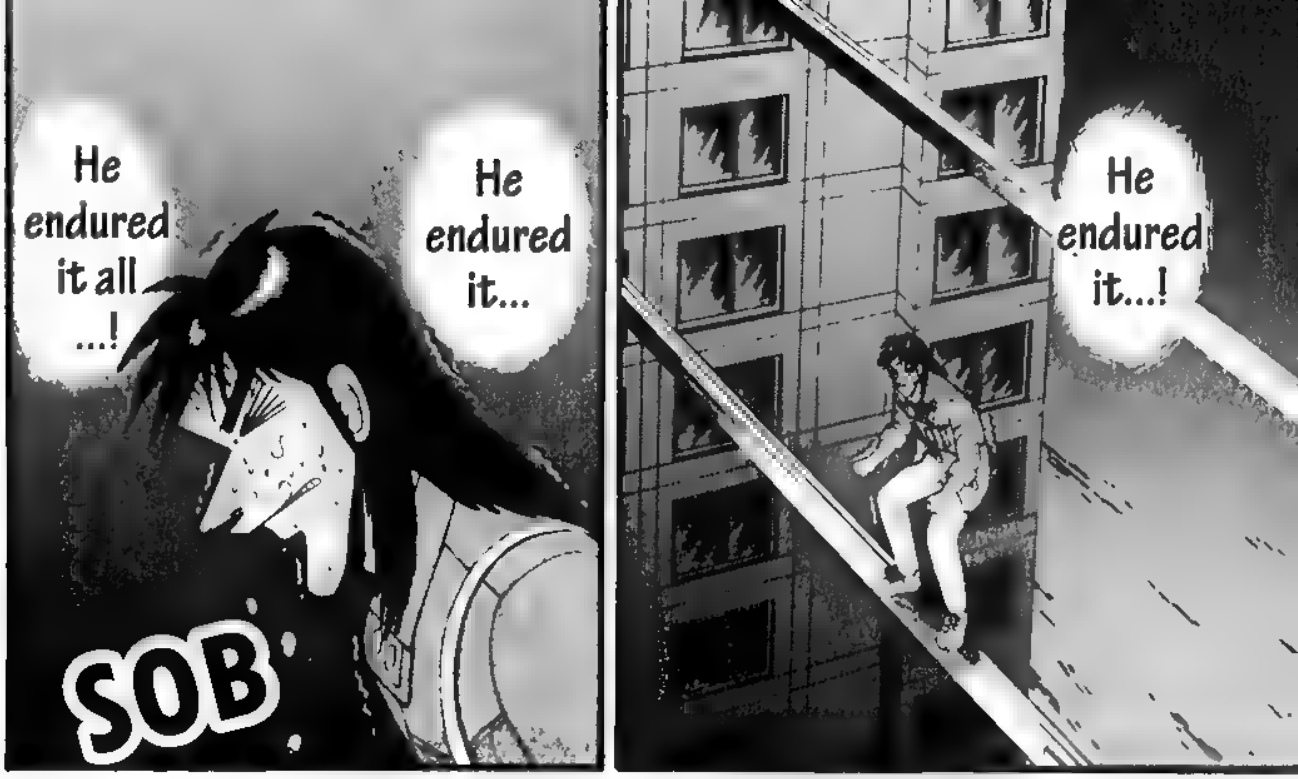

Aaahhhh ...!
Aahhhh...!
He fell ...!
He fell ...!
He fell ...!
Ishida was gone ...!
Aahhh...
When Kaiji turned to look behind him...
Ahh ...!
...Ishida was already gone.
...his final thoughts!
OHHH...
Unable to share with him...
In the end, Kaiji was unable to tell him...
OOHHH...
And ...
SOB SOB
He really fell...!





He did it silently...!

SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
It must have taken all of his will...
He must have been gritting his teeth to keep it in...
He must have swallowed his own screams...!
...to keep the shouts from escaping!
Silent as he fell ...!


He endured it all ...!
He endured it...
SOB
He endured it...!

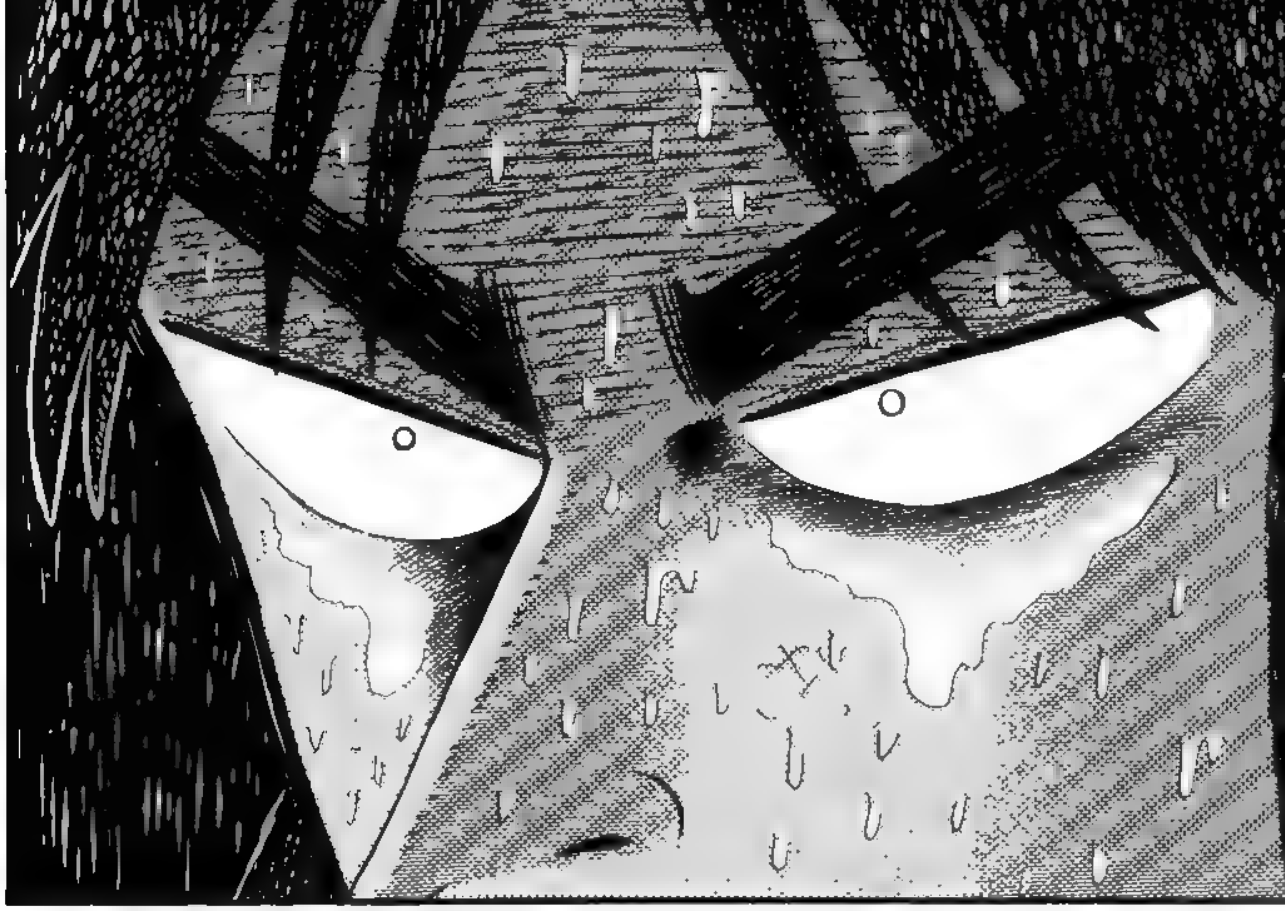
... unassuming self-control!
An act of quiet..
...not to let a single sound escape him.
10
It must have been nearly impossible
SOB SOB SOB
10

His last act of courage
But in that last act...
...that Ishida-san had...
...every ounce of courage...
10
It must have taken...

...to Ishida-san's will!
Testament, at the very last...
It's testament ...!
To his strength ...!
SOB
SOB
SOB
... Ishida-san was a success!

To his pride ...!
SOB
SOB
SOB
10

SOB SOB
SOB
10



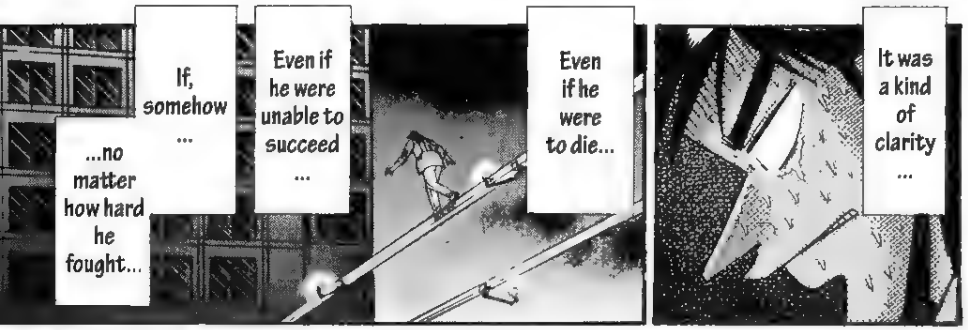
I am going to cross...!

I'm going to cross...!

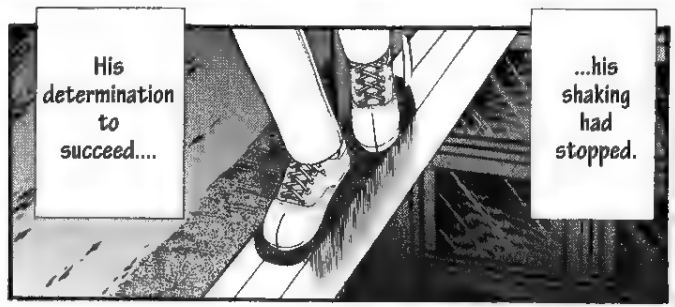
Absolutely ...
I will ...

I am going to cross this bridge ...!
I am going to succeed ...!
10
Deep inside Kaiji...

...a change had occurred!


If, somehow ...
...no matter how hard he fought...
Even if he were unable to succeed ...
Even if he were to die...

It was a kind of clarity ...


His determination to succeed....
...his shaking had stopped.

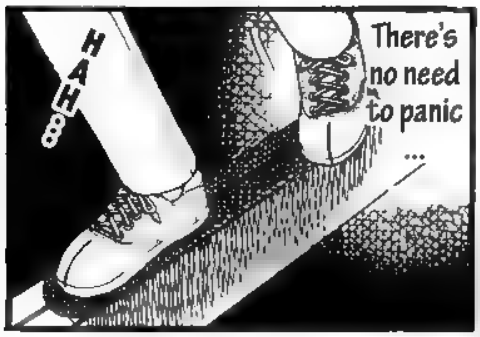
Before he knew it...

That was the one thing which he wouldn't do ...
He could promise, at least, that...
...he would not die in shame.
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

HAH...
HAH...
10
...he were to die still unable succeed...

...had conquered even the last of his fear.
...the sense of purpose which Ishida had entrusted to him...

Like Ishida had died ...!!
Die strong ...!


HAH
There's no need to panic ...

Just one step at a time...!

.....
HAH

I'll give every last drop I have!
I will not go quietly ...

Just keep my eyes on the next step...!
There's no need to look up ahead...!
Just keep going... one step at a time...!
The little bit of space in front of me...
...at a time....
One step...
One step...

Sahara
...

End of Chapter 84

?
.....

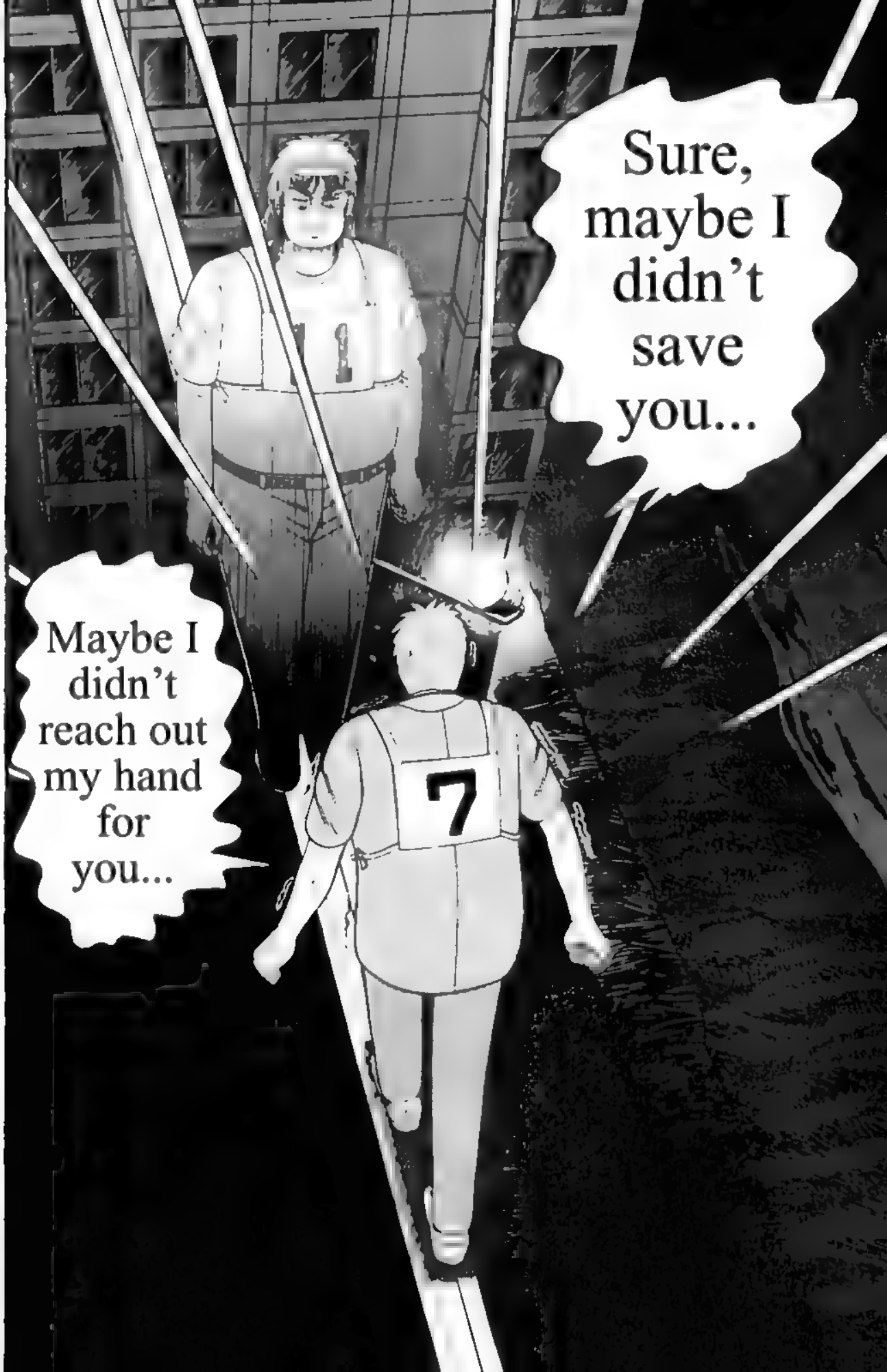
Man
...!

Sahara
...
What's
wrong
...?

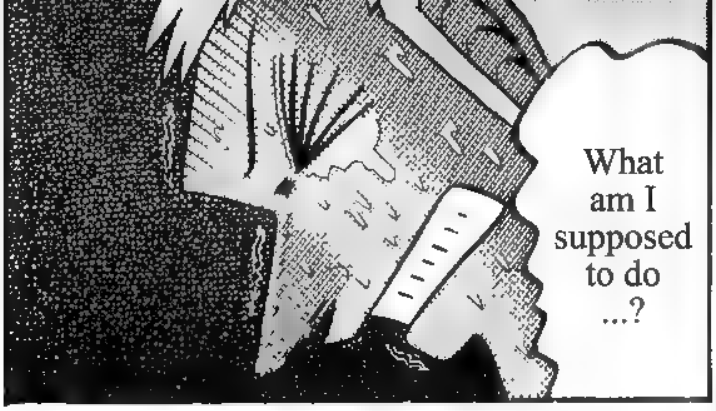
Sahara
...!
What's
the
matter
...!?

Man...!
Man...!
Man...!

Chapter 85: Apparitions


Sure, maybe I didn't save you...
Maybe I didn't reach out my hand for you...
7

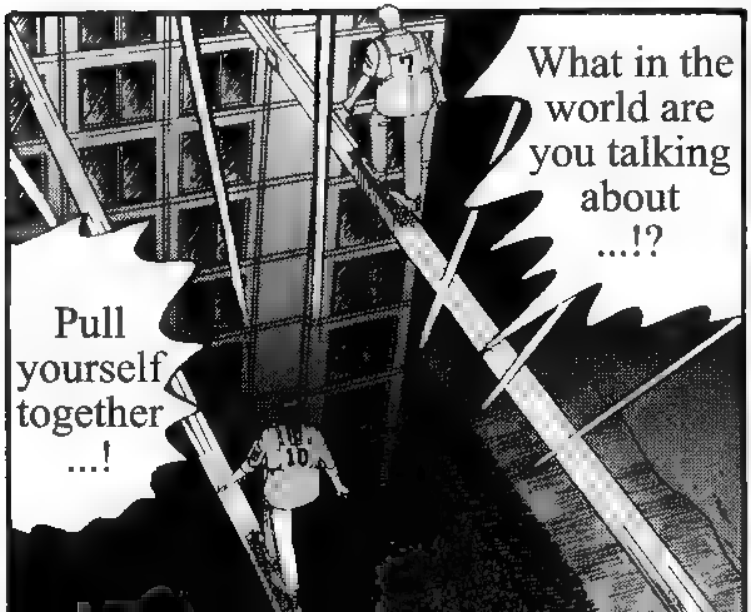
You should have gotten yourself across...! I didn't make the rules...!
...to get on this bridge!
You made your own choice...
But I'm not the one you should be holding the grudge against...!
He doesn't exist anymore ...!
Stop talking to Ota ...!
Sahara, snap out of it...!
Don't come crying, now that you're dead...!
Man ...!
Man ...!
Man ...!
...but I still see him, anyways!
I know that...
I know that...!
It's just an illusion... you're seeing things ...!


What am I supposed to do ...?

Man ...!
SOB

What ...?
As long as he's there I can't move forward...

You ...

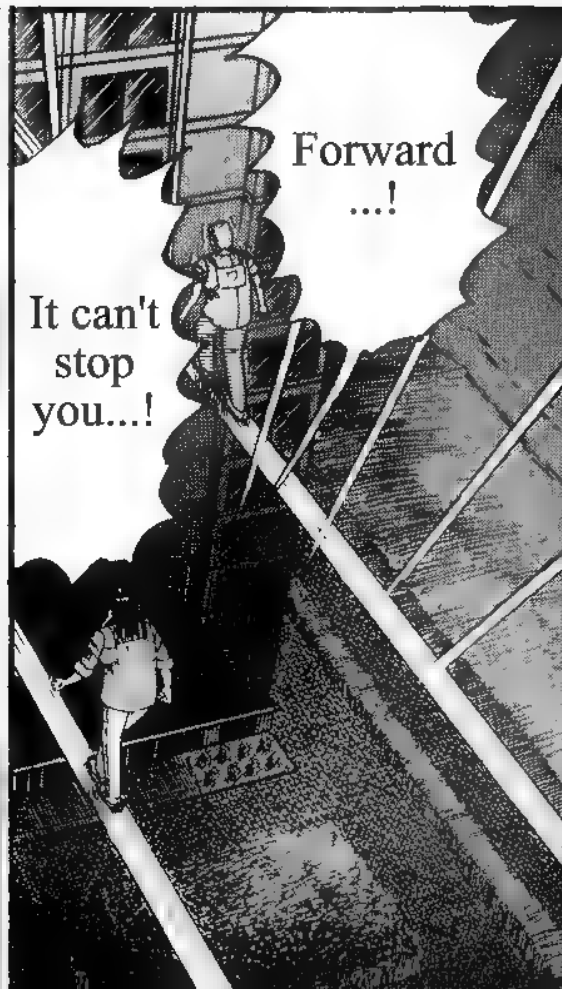

What in the world are you talking about ...!?
Pull yourself together ...!

You idiot ...!

To get across...!
We're here to get across that bridge...
We're not here to be afraid...
Didn't you say it before ...!?
Do you hear me...!?
To get across...!
We're here to get across...!
...or phantoms or illusions ...
It doesn't matter ...!
...if there are ghosts, or boogey-men...
To get across ...!
Just kick them out of your way ...!
That's nothing to be afraid of...!
I don't care...

I don't care what you see...
You're going forward ...!

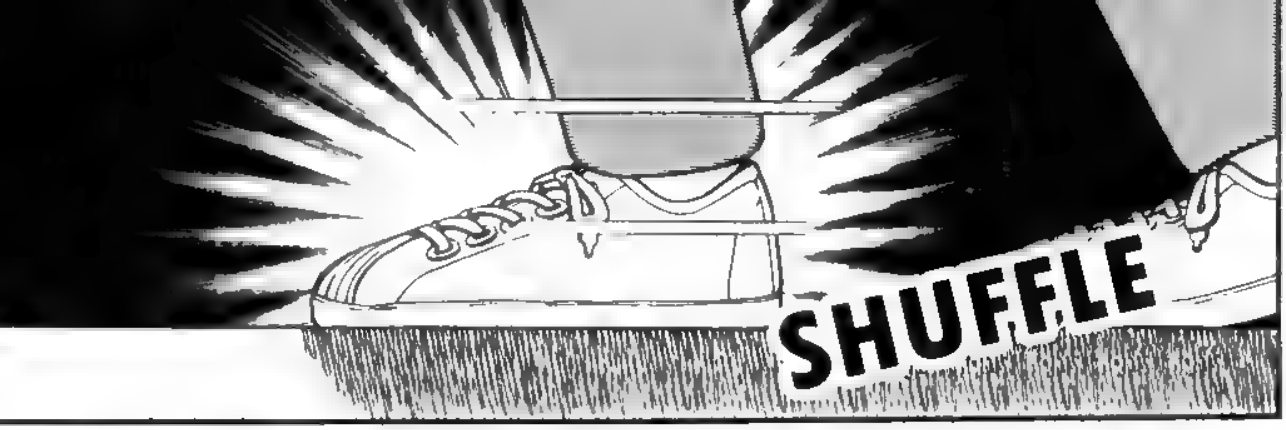
Sahara ...!
Just push him...!

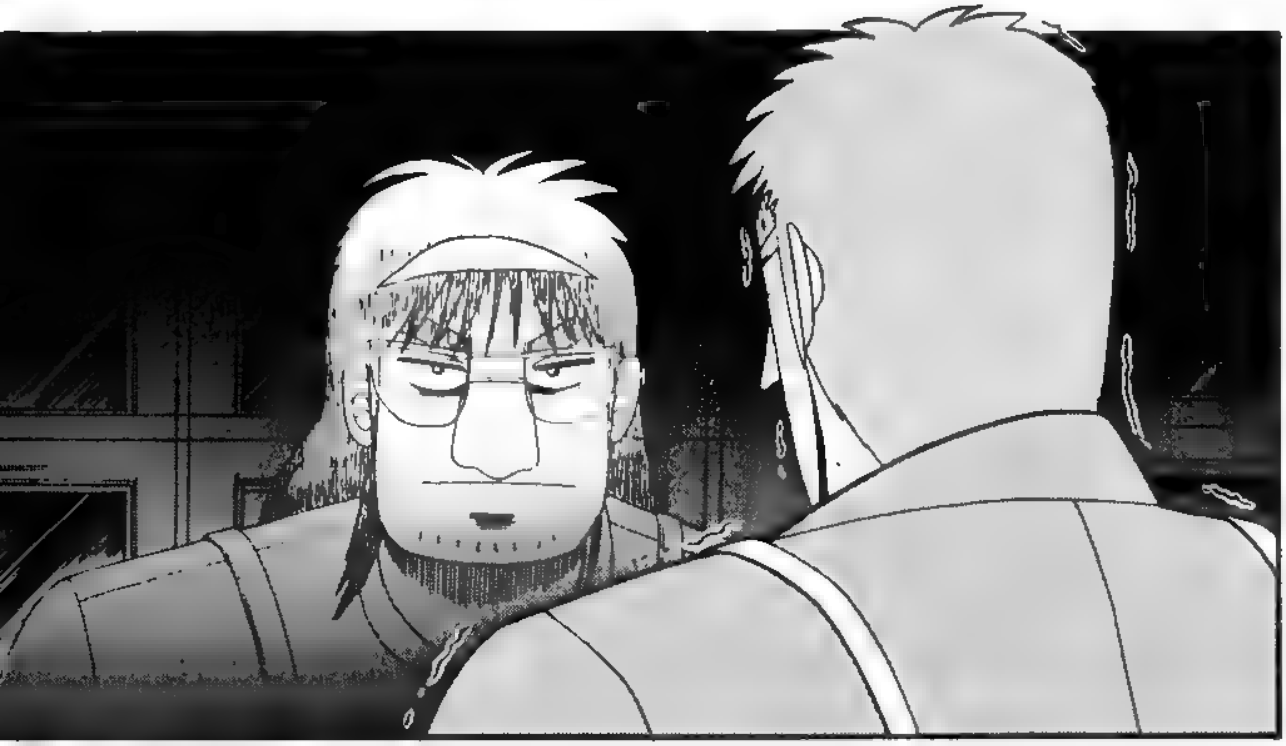

Forward ...!
It can't stop you...!

Push the ghost...
If you go forward...

One step ...!
Go forward ...!
Forward ...!
...and it will be the one to back down!
By some ghost...!
If you back down now, you're going to be killed ...!
Don't back down ...!
Sahara ...!
Just go one step ...!

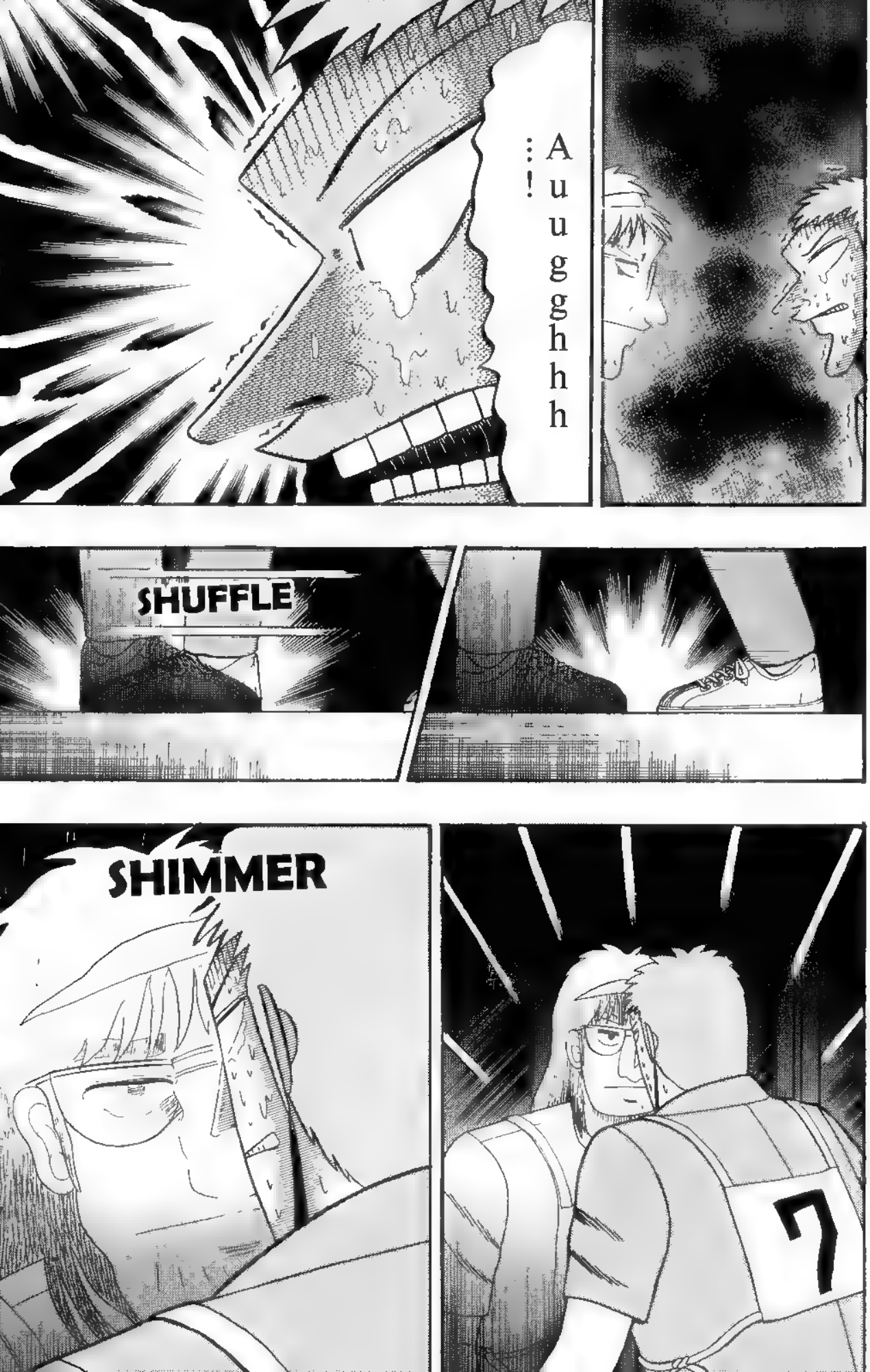
Ngh ...!
That's it...!
SHUFFLE
Take another step forward ...!
Now take another ...!
You've taken one step...


SHUFFLE



He won't disappear ...
Take another step...!
It's no good ...!
.....

Walk right over him...!
Then step on him ...!
...I'll be standing on his feet...
If I take another step ...
What other step ...!?
Go on the attack ...!
It's do or die ...!
You can't back down now...!
This is it...!
Sahara ...!
Attack him ...!


Auugghhh...!
SHUFFLE
SHIMMER
7

WHOOOH...

Well ...?

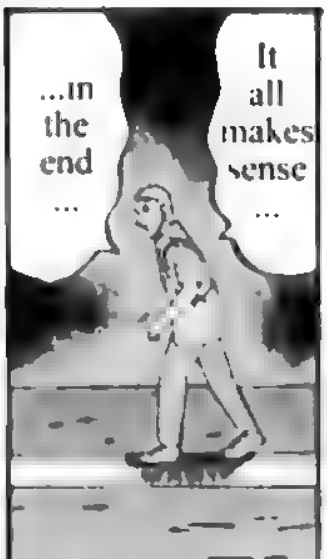
Hehehe
...
Hmph
...
Heehehehe
...
Sahara
...!
He
blew
away
...!

He's gone ...

Of course ...

Hmph
Sahara ...!

The dead are like trash ...

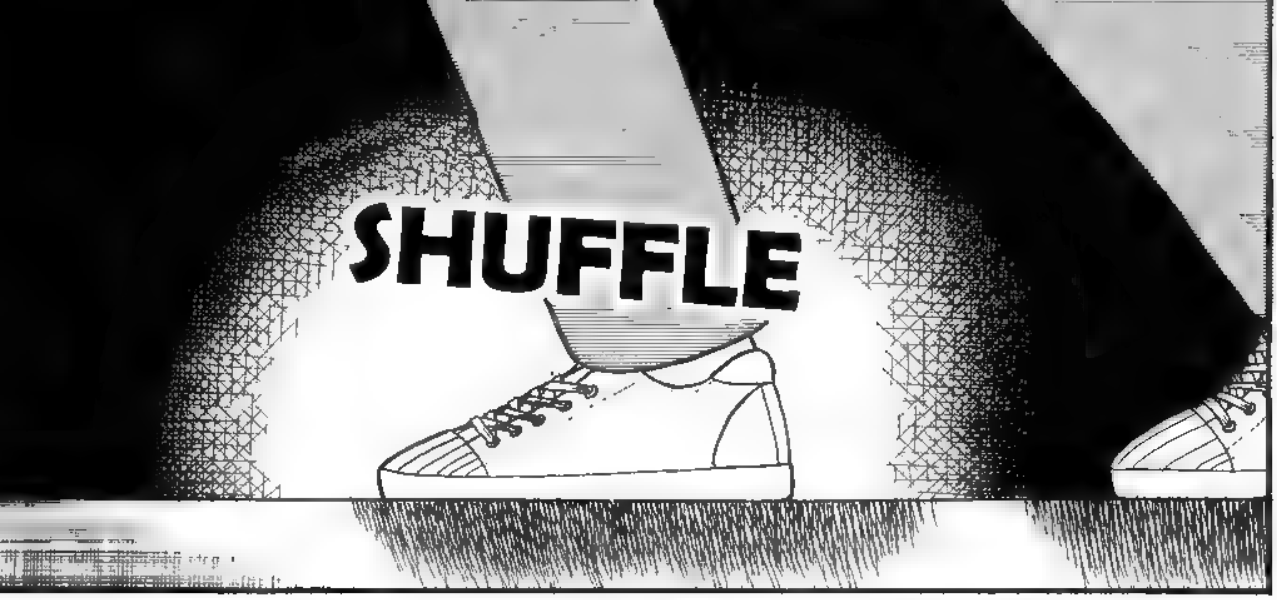

...in the end ...
It all makes sense ...

Now I see ...
Now I see ...

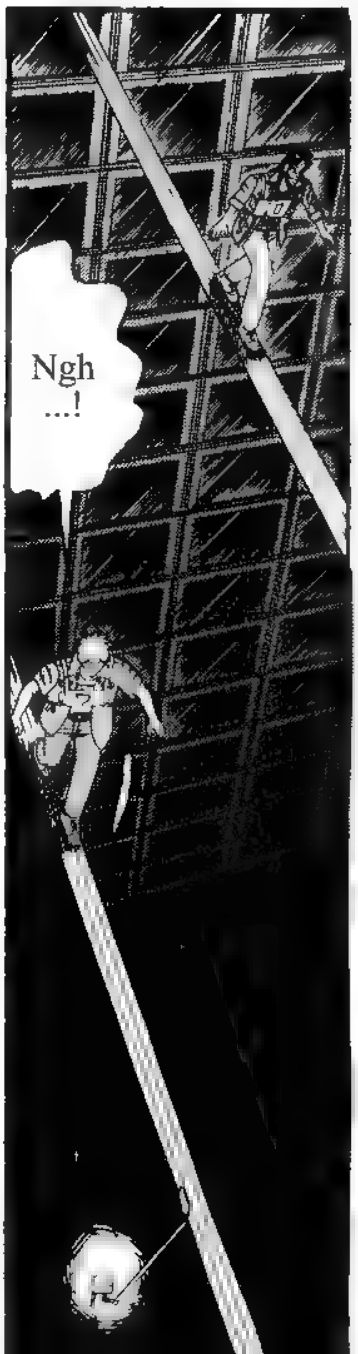
...once you're dead ...
In the end...
...you're powerless.
It doesn't matter how much enmity or hate you leave behind when you go.
Huh ...?
It's the living, like me...!
It's not the dead that matter ...
This is reality.
It's as simple as that ...
It all makes sense ...
.....
I'm going across ...!
As long as I'm alive it's my feelings which come first...!

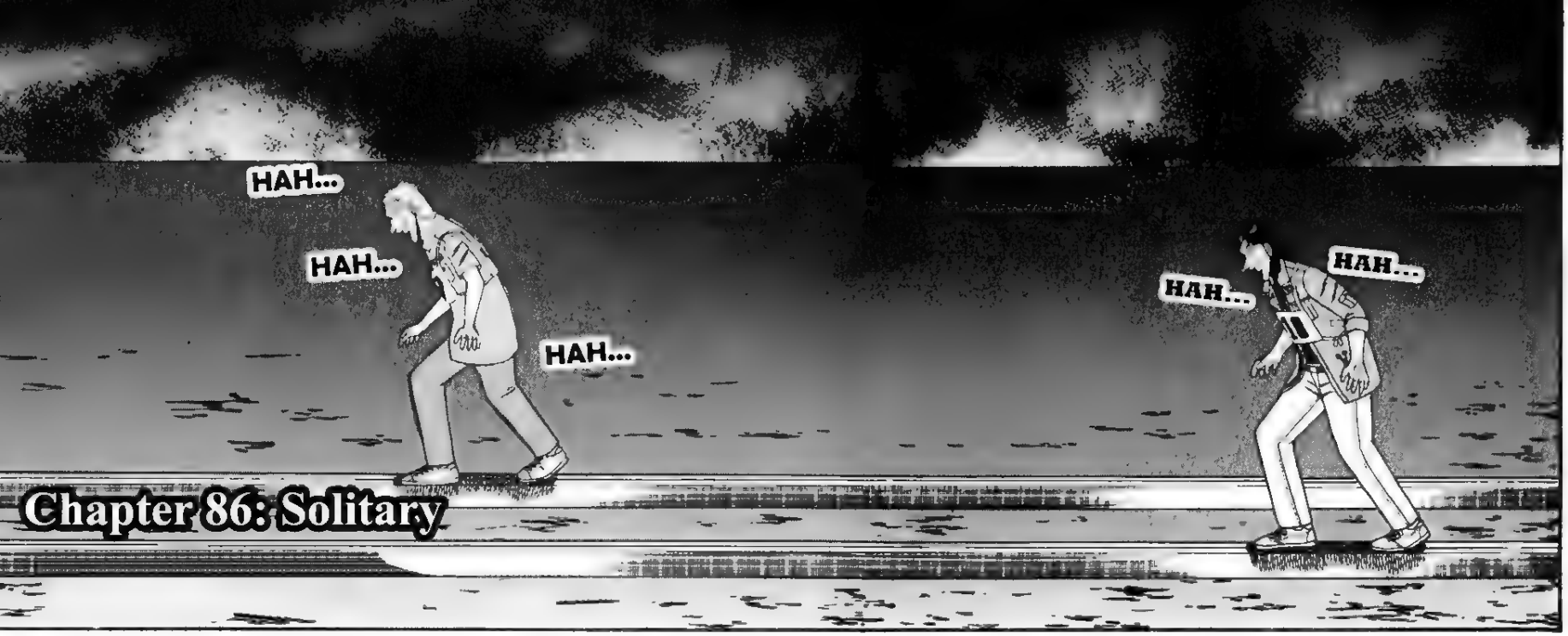
I don't care who gets in my way...
Once I cross the money's mine...
It would be ridiculous to come this far and not make it across ...!
20 mil. yen ...!
There's only 10m left until the goal...!
Across the bridge ...!
Even ghosts can be pushed out of the way...!

Sahara ...
End of Chapter 85

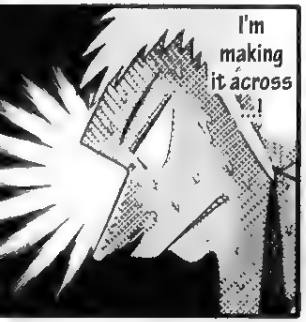


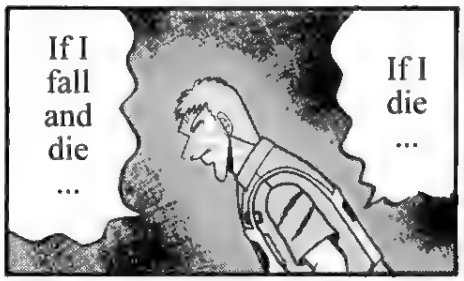
The dead are just trash ...!



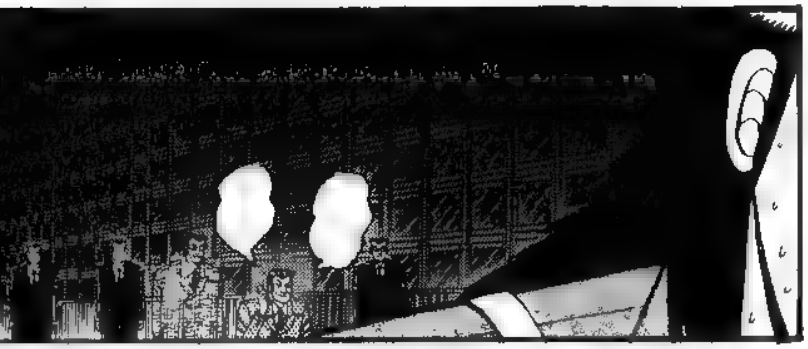


And to cross it alive ...!





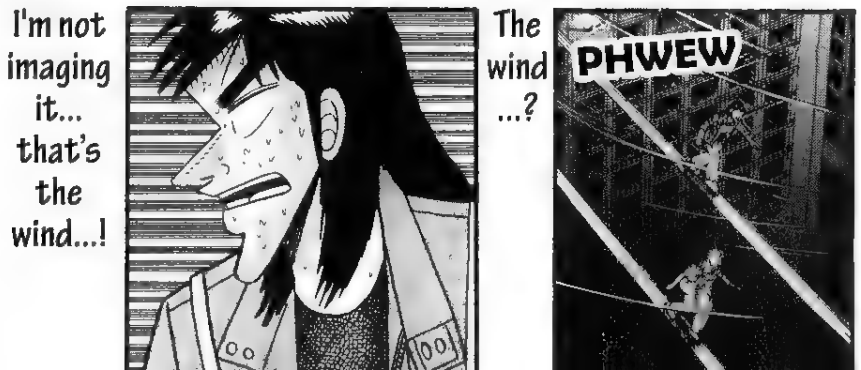
Sahara ...!
Sahara ...!
It's just like he says...
He's right ...!
Sahara ...!
Nakayama ... Ishida -san...
Ota ...
We've gotta cross ...!



No matter what it takes ...!

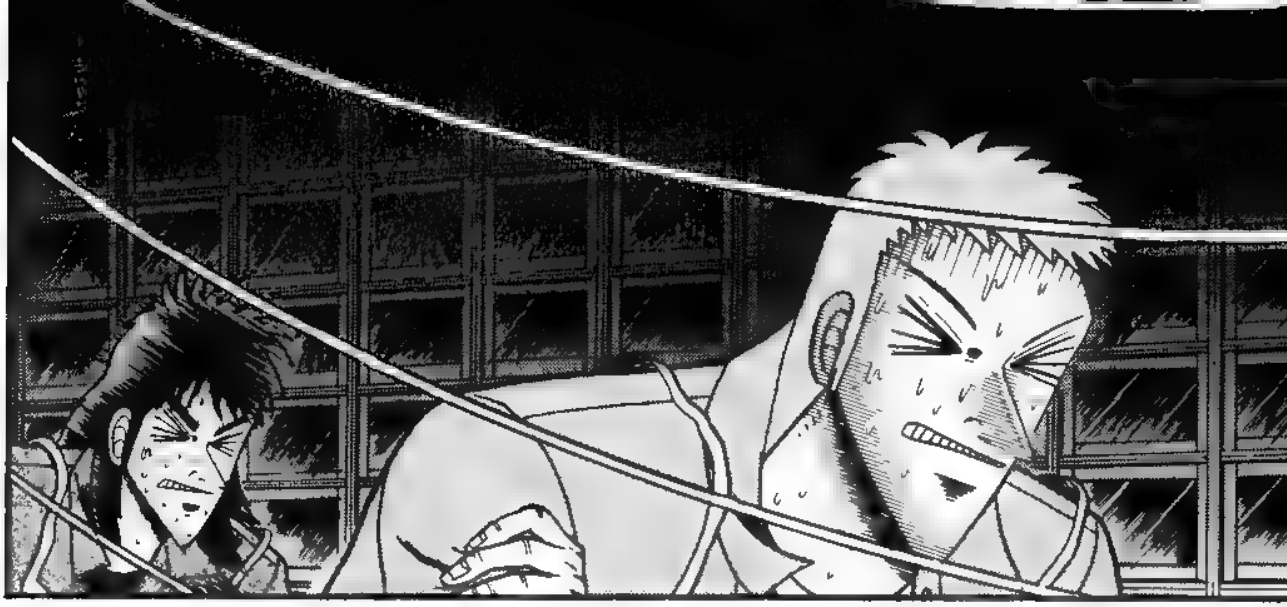
Hmph ...
BEEP
Alright ...
Yeah ...
Huh ...?
I've got a small matter to take care of...
I wish I could say I'd be right back ...
Wh- Where are you going ...?
: H e h e h e

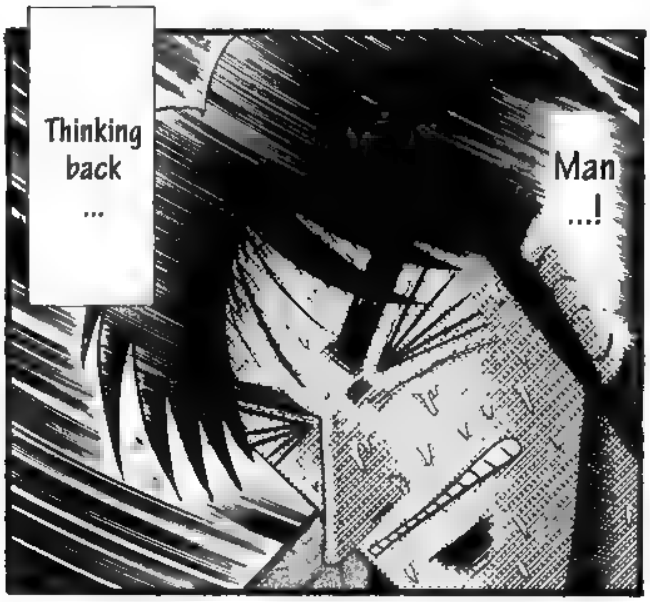
Once it's all over...
...you keep watch.
For now ...
...but I doubt there'll be much time left.
Yes sir ...!
...once they both fall ...pack it in for the day.
In other words ...
.....



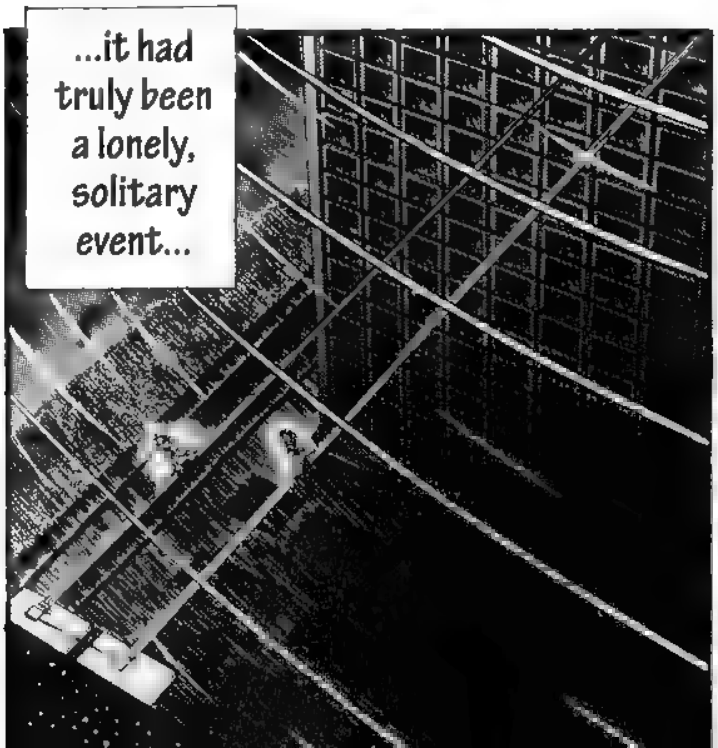
6 meters left!!

PHYEEEEWWWWWW
It's a sudden gust ...!
Ngh ...

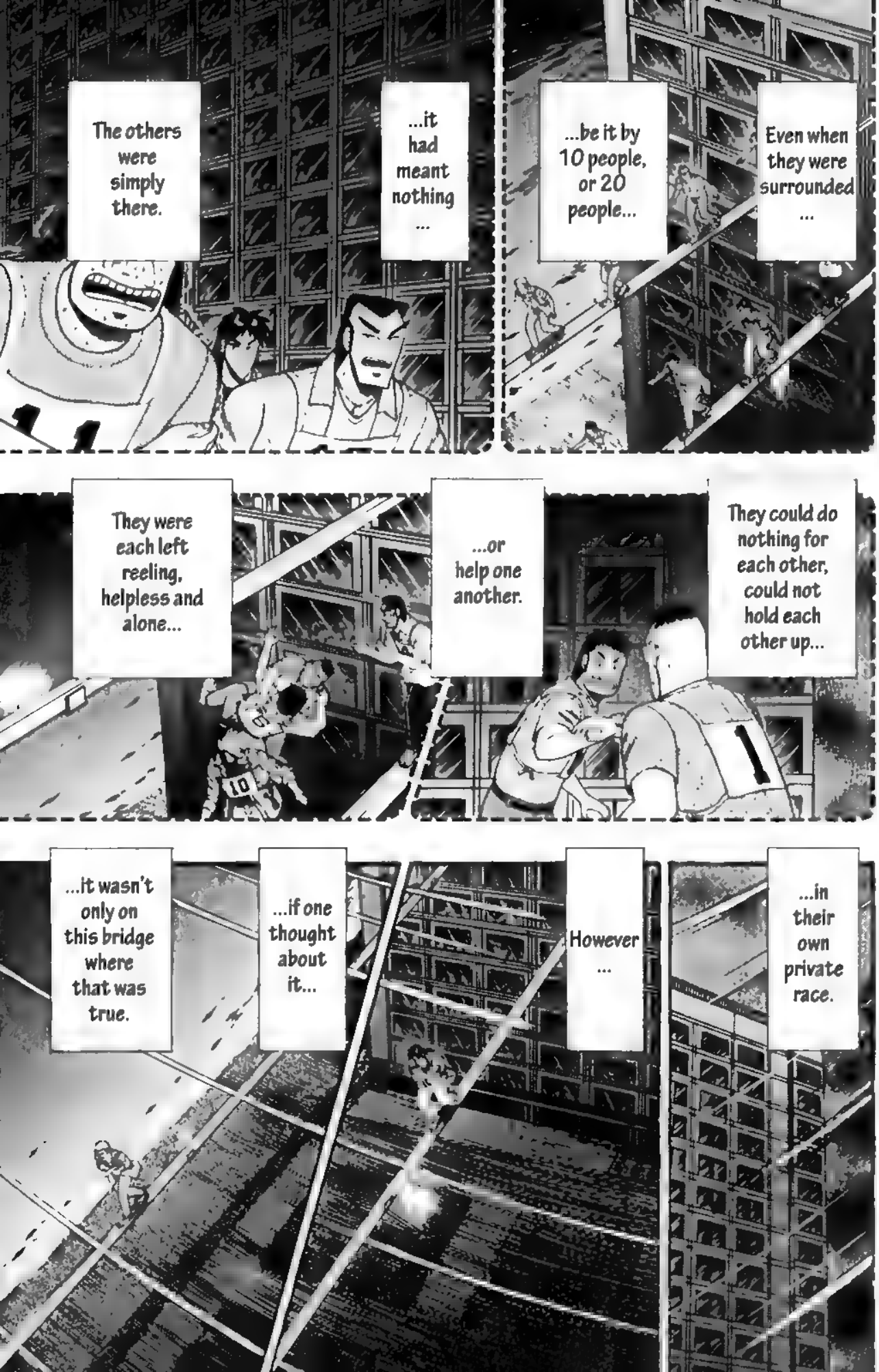


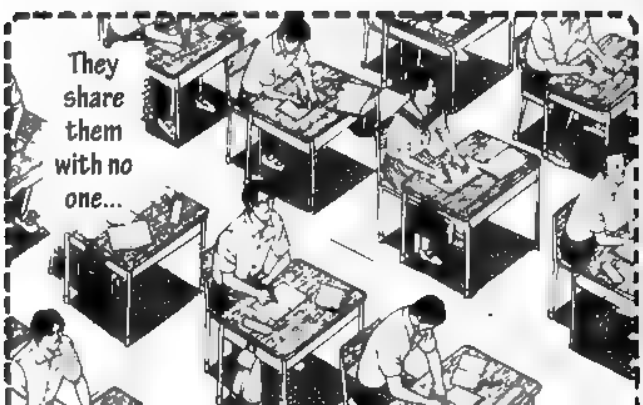

Thinking back ...
Man ...!

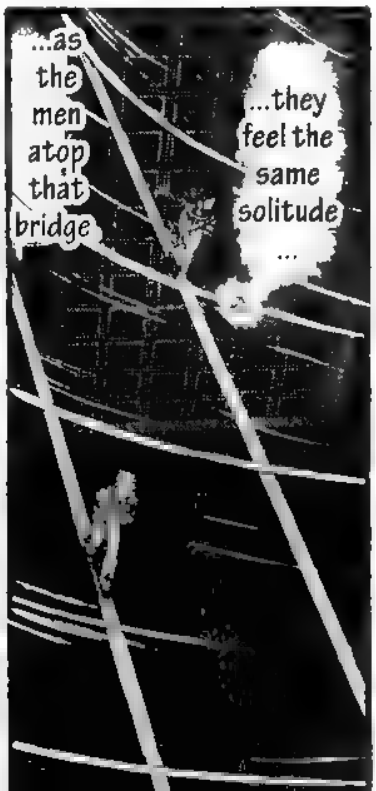
Ngh ...!


...it had truly been a lonely, solitary event...

...on the race so far ...


The others were simply there.
...it had meant nothing ...
...be it by 10 people, or 20 people...
Even when they were surrounded ...
They were each left reeling, helpless and alone...
...or help one another.
They could do nothing for each other, could not hold each other up...
...it wasn't only on this bridge where that was true.
...if one thought about it...
However ...
...in their own private race.

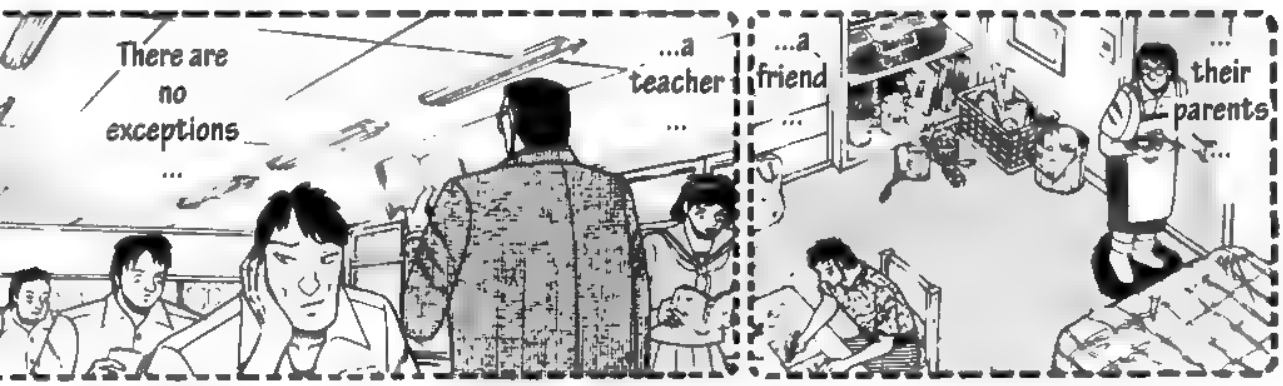




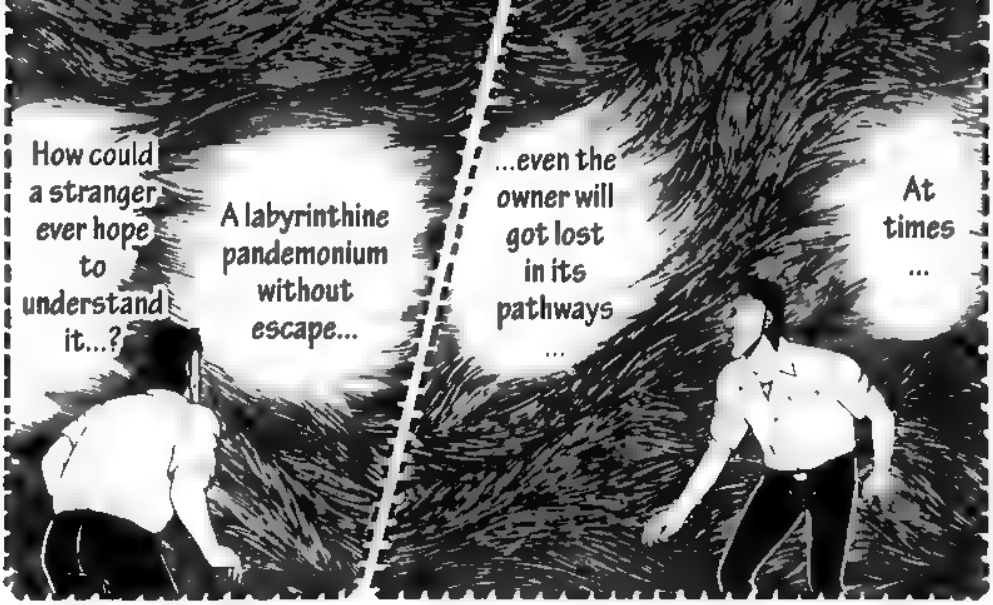
Wherever people are found...

...what the other is thinking.
...that they know ...
...they are just presuming ...
...but the truth is...
...they might feel as if their feelings have gotten across anyways...
At times ...

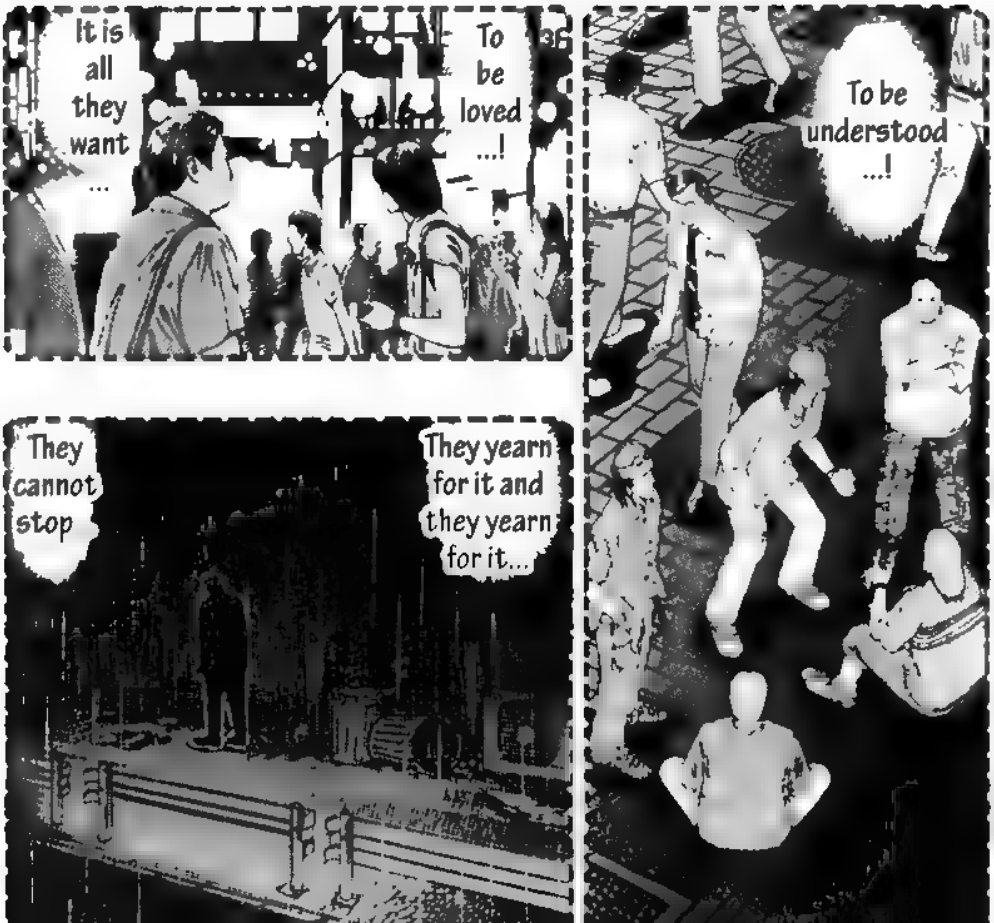
Whether it be ...
There is no way for them to know...
The truth is that they don't really know the other is thinking...

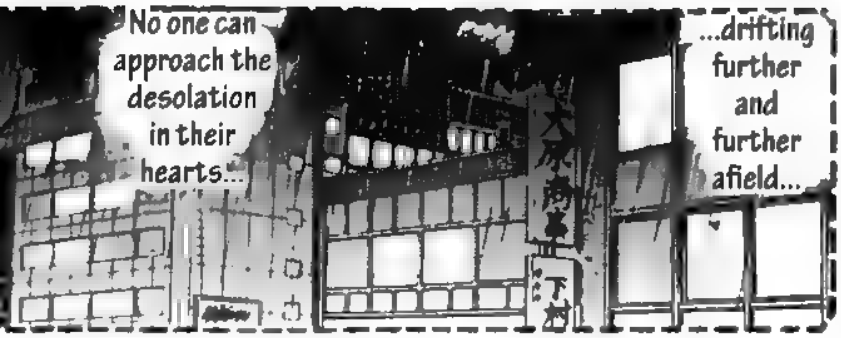

There are no exceptions ...
...a teacher ...
...a friend ...
... their parents ...

...is a tangled and elusive thing...
For the heart ...
...what lies in another's heart!
It's impossible to know ...


How could a stranger ever hope to understand it...?
A labyrinthine pandemonium without escape...
...even the owner will got lost in its pathways ...
At times ...

... full of blind alleys, and twisted mazes!



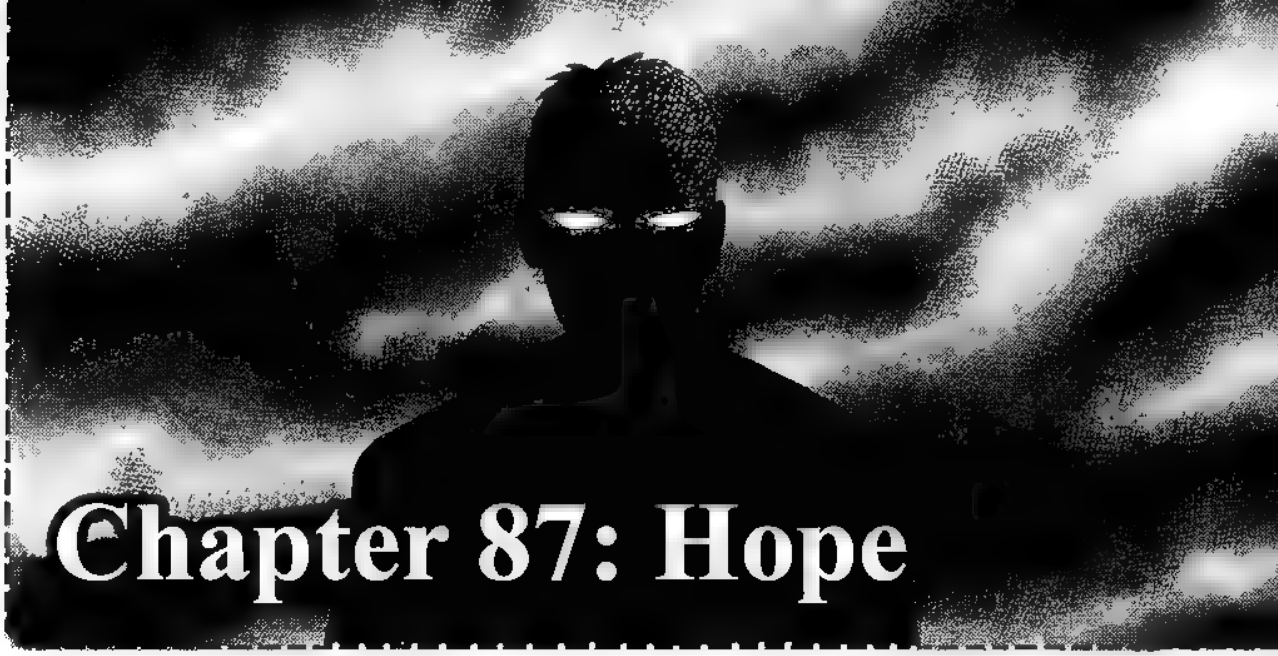


But in the end ... they remain alone ...

End of Chapter 86

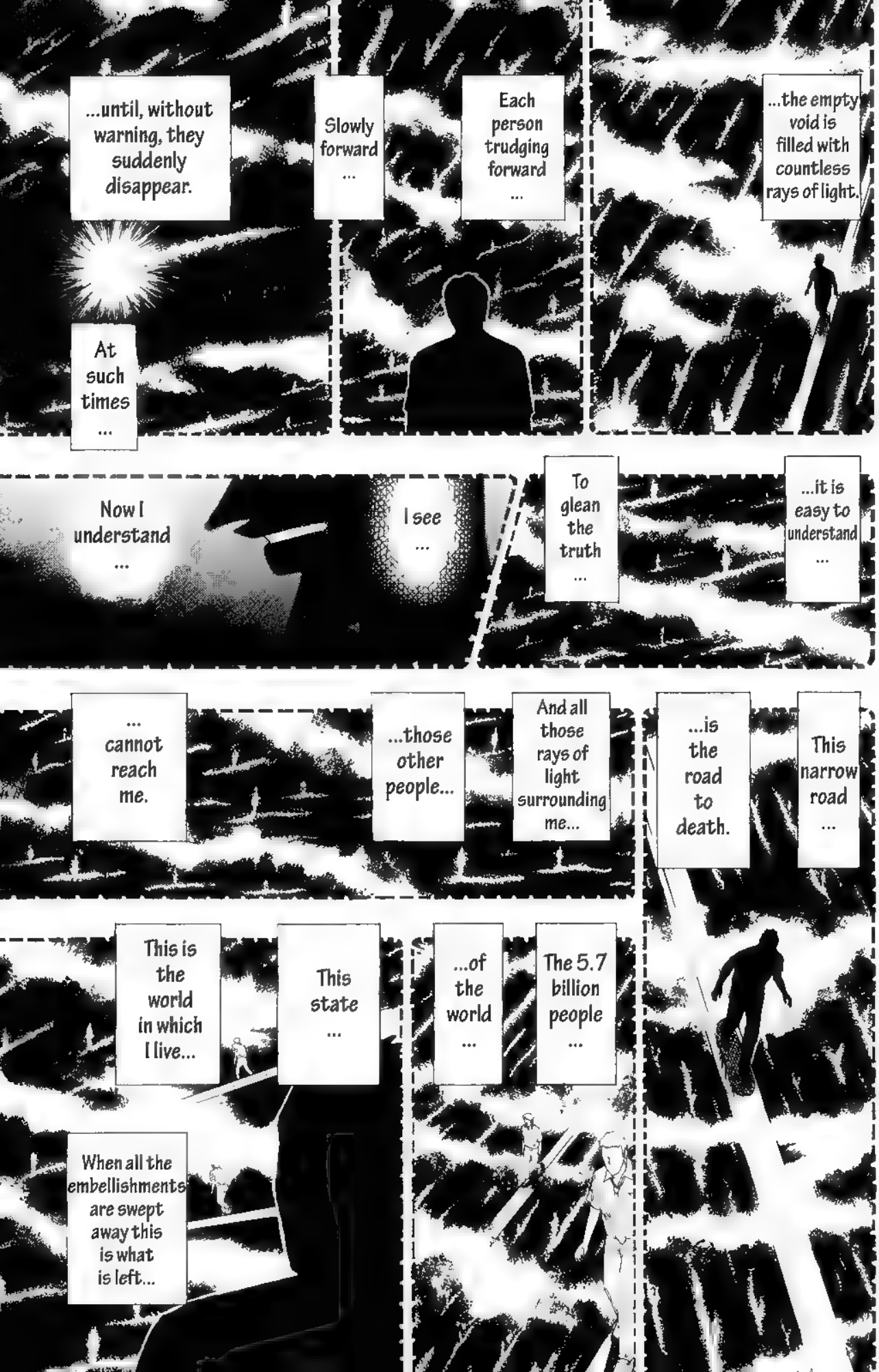
Gambling Apocalypse

Kaiji

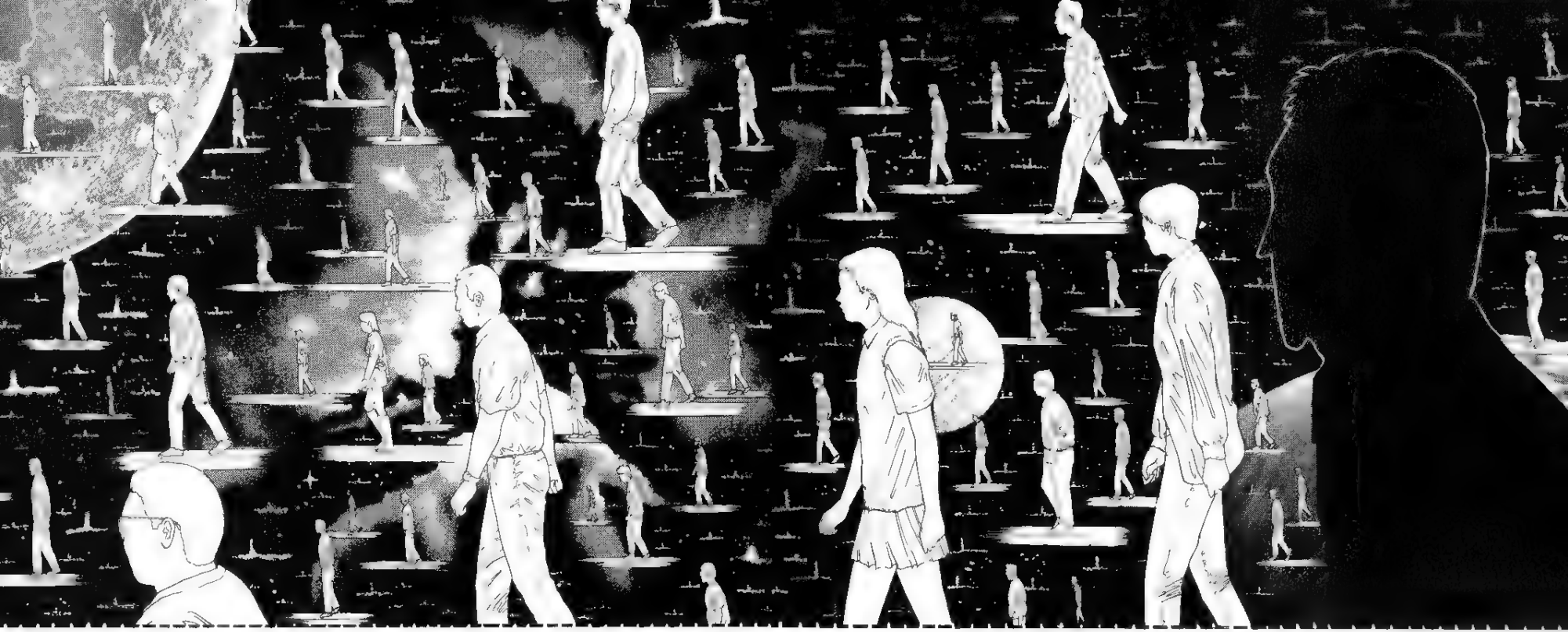

Chapter 87: Hope

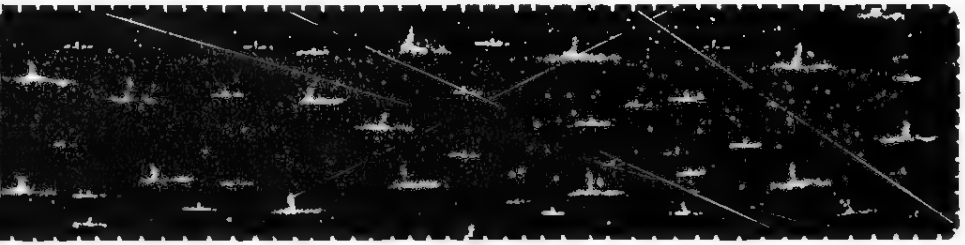
I always imagine it as a single road...
...amidst thick clouds which obscure the vision...
...it lies in the dim shadows beneath our feet.

With nothing else before us...
...we have no option ...
...but to walk that path.
But, should we happen to glance up and look around us...

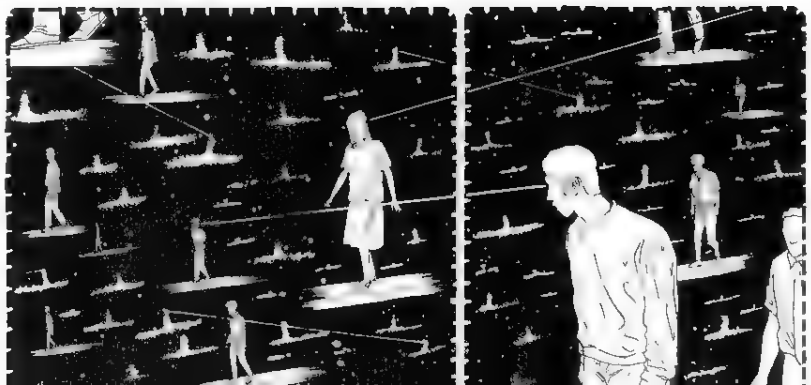

...until, without warning, they suddenly disappear.
Slowly forward ...
Each person trudging forward ...
...the empty void is filled with countless rays of light.
At such times ...
Now I understand ...
I see ...
To glean the truth ...
...it is easy to understand ...
... cannot reach me.
...those other people...
And all those rays of light surrounding me...
...is the road to death.
This narrow road ...
This is the world in which I live...
This state ...
...of the world ...
The 5.7 billion people ...
When all the embellishments are swept away this is what is left...

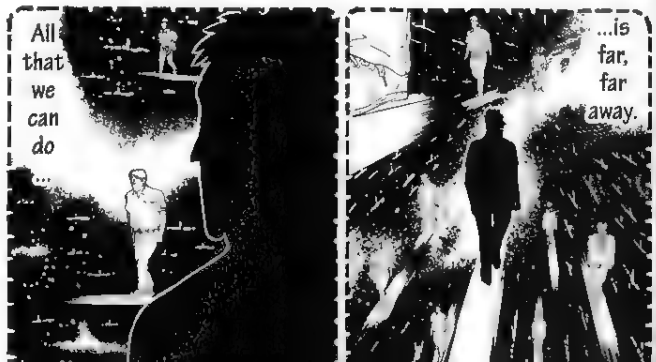
5.7 billion solitary people ...!
Each of us walking, alone, through the ether...

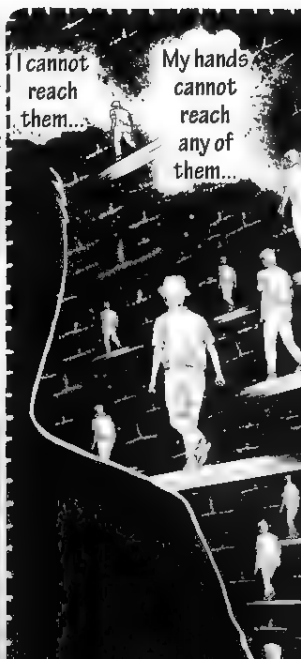




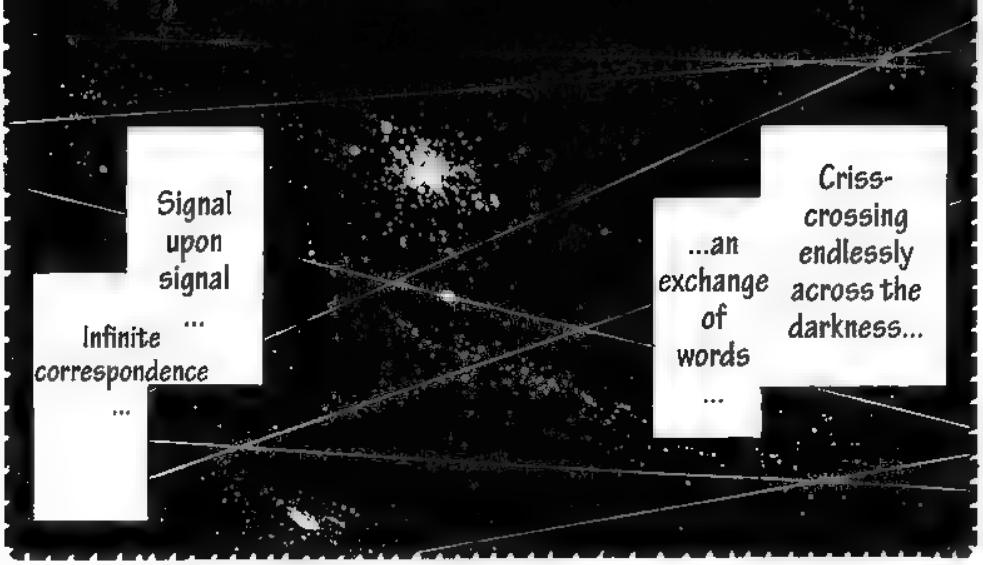
...is to communicate by signal.

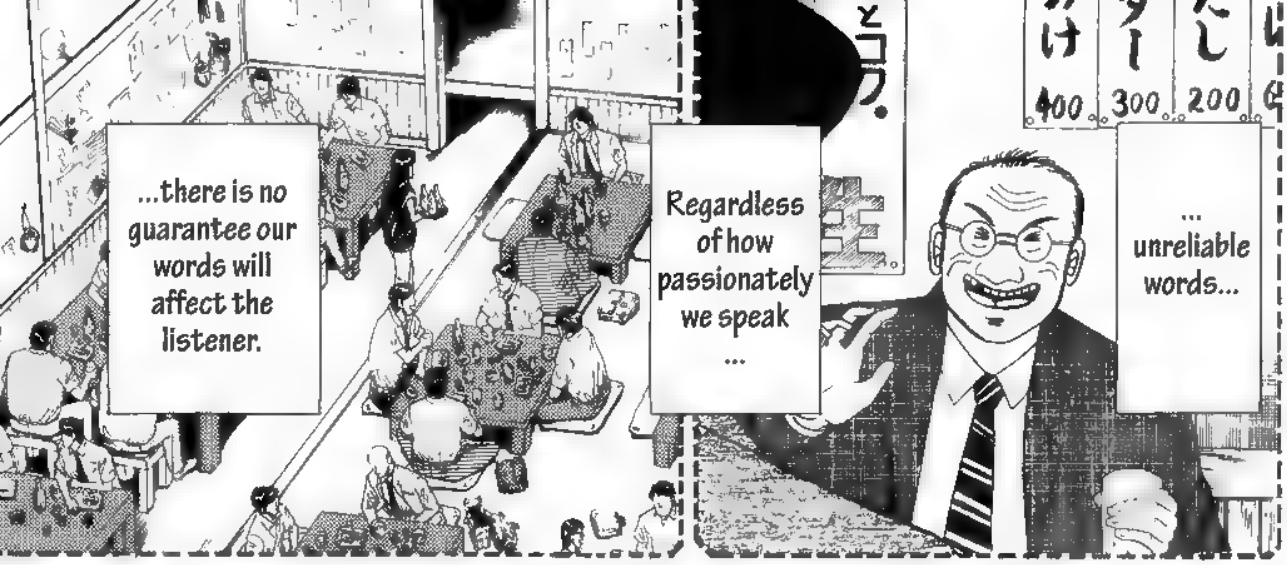




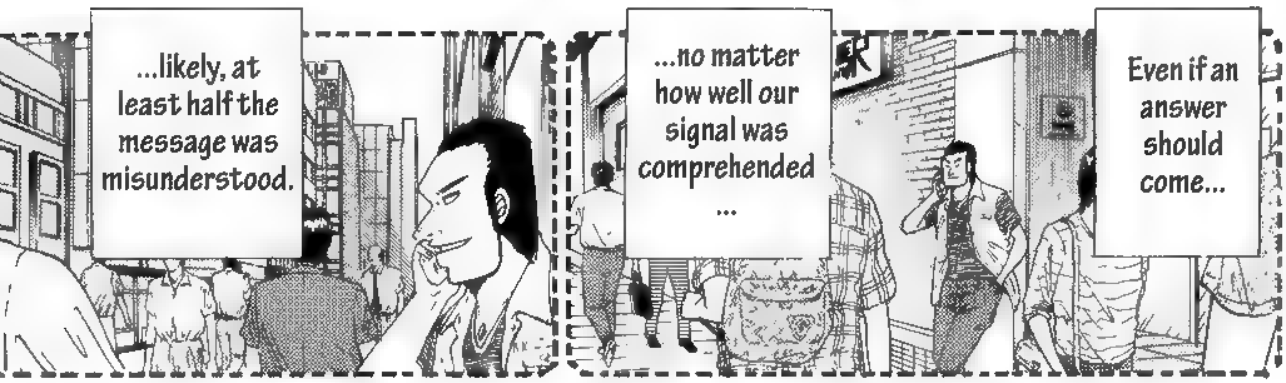


Only communicate!!

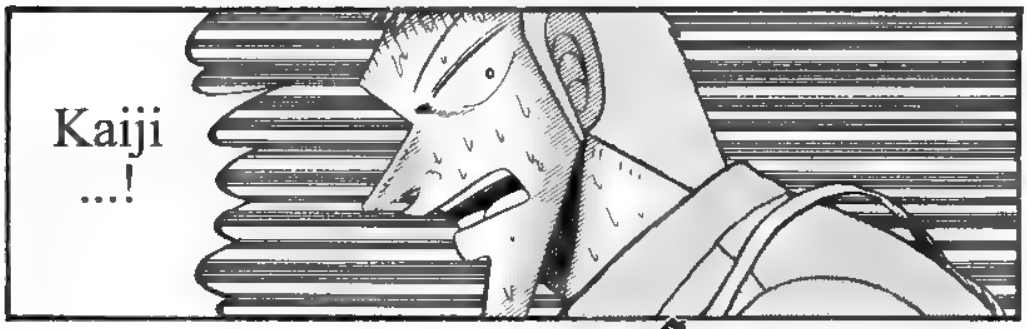



...there is no guarantee our words will affect the listener.
Regardless of how passionately we speak ...
... unreliable words...

...truly reach the other or not.
There's no way of knowing whether our feelings...
Signals are by their nature one -way things.


...likely, at least half the message was misunderstood.
...no matter how well our signal was comprehended ...
Even if an answer should come...

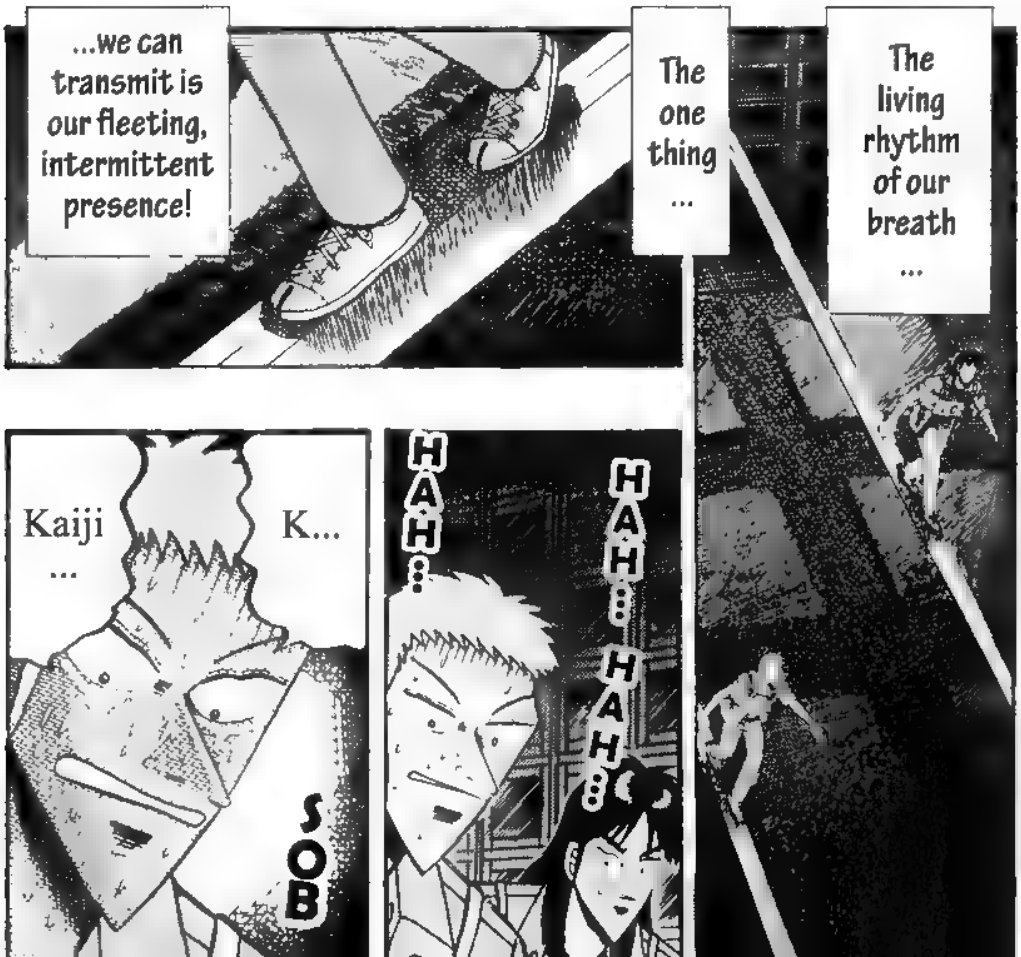
...it is foolish to ask for anything more.
... reaches its destination ...
As long as the transmission ...
...but to trust that our message is received.
But there is no choice...



It is foolish to ask for understanding!!!

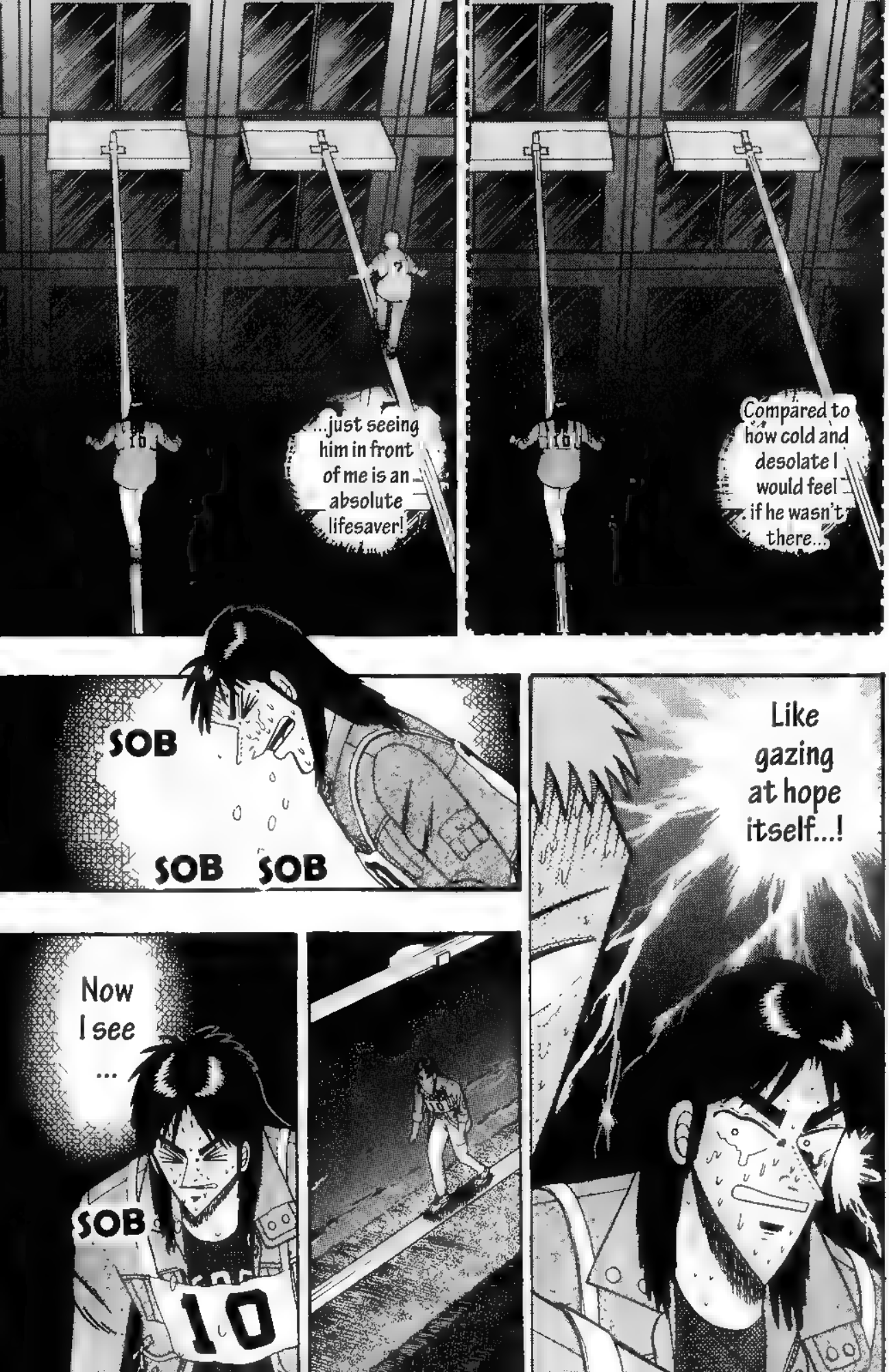
To hope for such is to sink into a mire...
True understanding is impossible ...
HAH...
We cannot ask for understanding ...
Another reason to communicate ...!
But there is something else...
...the deeper our confusion, and more tangled our solitude, would grow.
The more we communicate ...
Still ...
...amongst one another, of one fruitless misunderstanding after the next...
...from true understanding, may be the cause of distrust ...
Though communication may be a far cry...
HAH...
HAH...
Because it is there ...!
We must communicate ...!
SOB

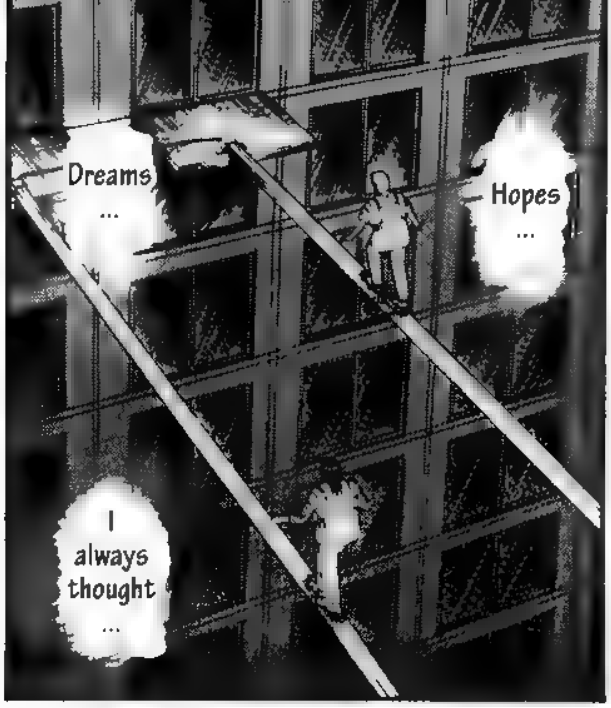
The one sure thing which we can transmit ...!



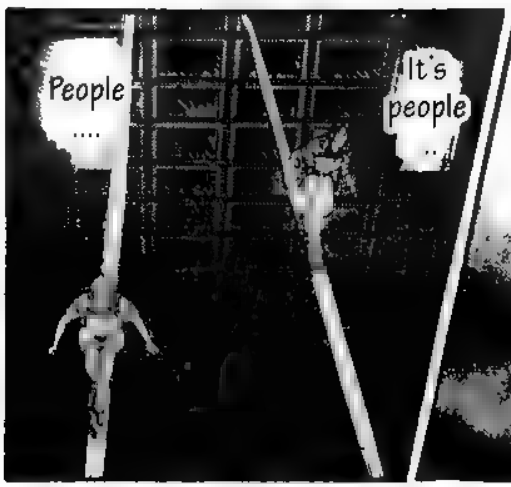
I'm here ...!
Are you still there ...!?
Are you there ...!?
I'm here ...
I'm here, Sahara ...!
SOB SOB SOB
I'm still here ...!
But still ...
We're too hopelessly far apart ...!
... and Sahara can't save me ...
I can't save Sahara ...
I...

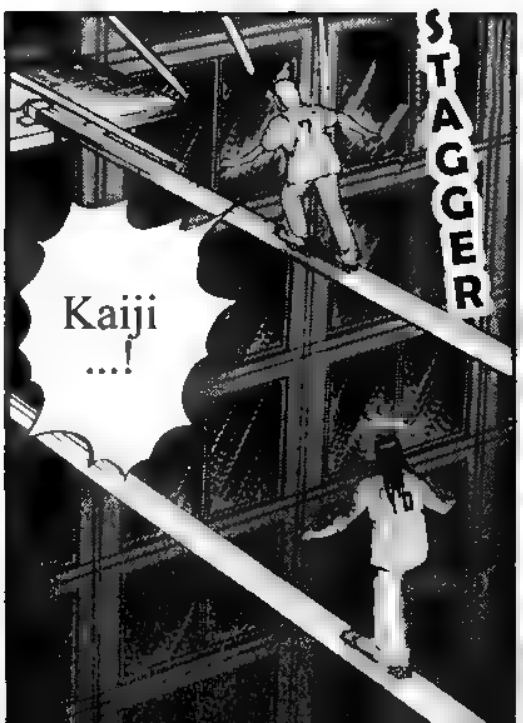
Why do I feel this warmth ...!?
SOB
SOB
...sense of gratitude ...
This warm ...
I can feel it welling up inside my chest...
SOB
SOB
...is enough to help me!
Just his being there...
Sahara ...


...just seeing him in front of me is an absolute lifesaver!
Compared to how cold and desolate I would feel if he wasn't there...
SOB
SOB SOB
Like gazing at hope itself...!
Now I see ...
SOB
10



I couldn't see it before ...





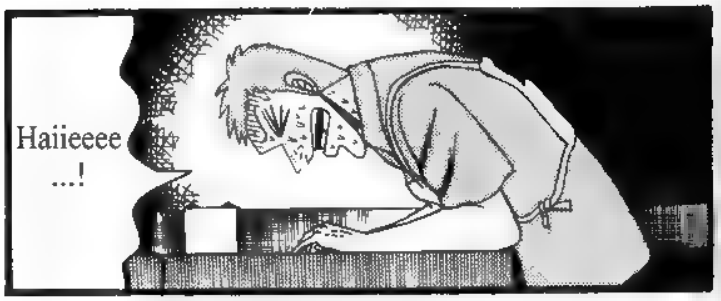
Hang in there ...!
Sahara ...!
Kaiji ...!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
I'm here ...
Sahara ...!
I'm right here ...!
Traveling the same journey ...
Feeling the same pain ...
I'm here, Sahara ...!
I'm here ...!
STAGGER
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

I'm here ...!
JUMP
Saharaaaa ...!

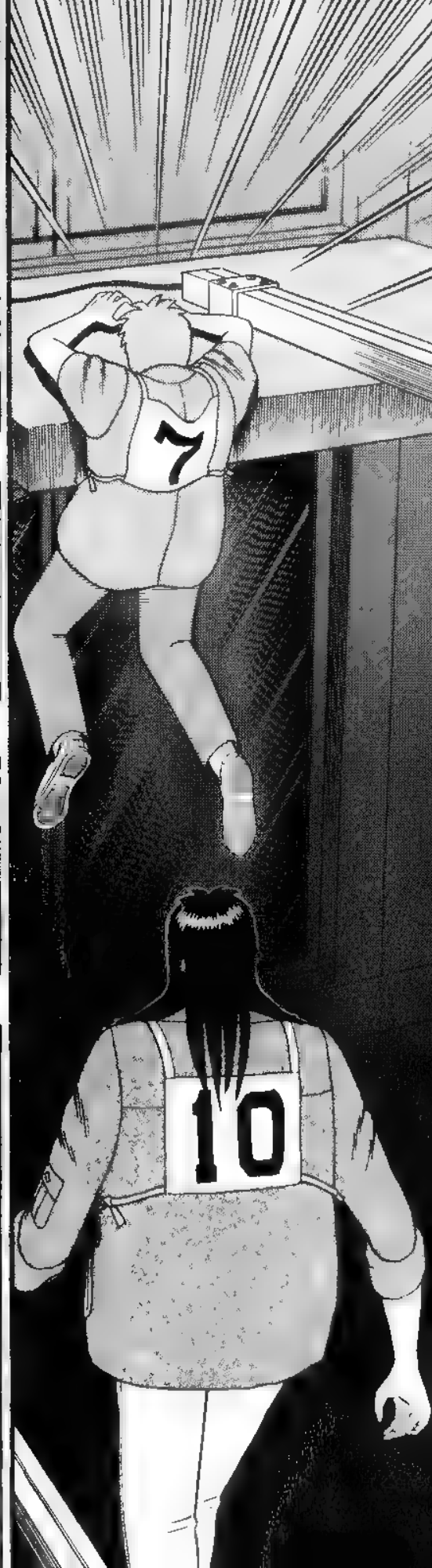
10
Sahara
...

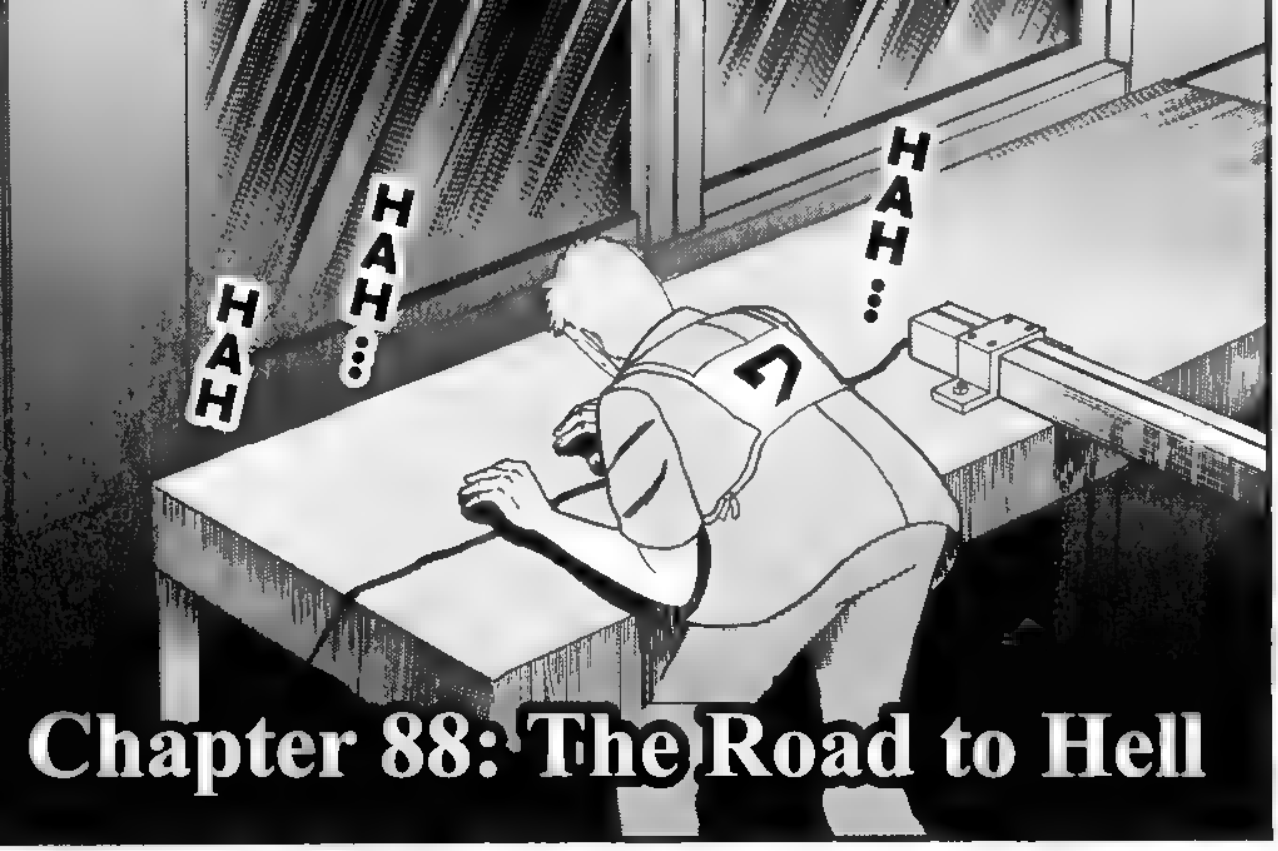
HAH!
HAH!

HAH!
HAH!


Haiieeee ...!

Sahara ...!
10
End of Chapter 87


7
10



Chapter 88: The Road to Hell

I did it ...!
I did it ...!

Sahara ...
I did it ...!

The goal ...!

SOB
SOB

...my future is waiting for me!

On the other side of this window ...
I made it ...!

My future ...!
SOB
SOB
SOB

...and I'm there.
All I need to do is enter ...
SOB
SOB
SOB

Sahara ...
How do I open it...?
I can't find a handle ...
But ...

I think I can open it...
There's a fingerhold on the side...
CLICK
CLICK
It's here ...
No wait ...
CLICK

Sahara ...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
I'll get this window open soon...!
Don't worry, Kaiji...!

Leave it to me...!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HAH!
GLARE
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
A strange vignette awaited...
Huh ...?

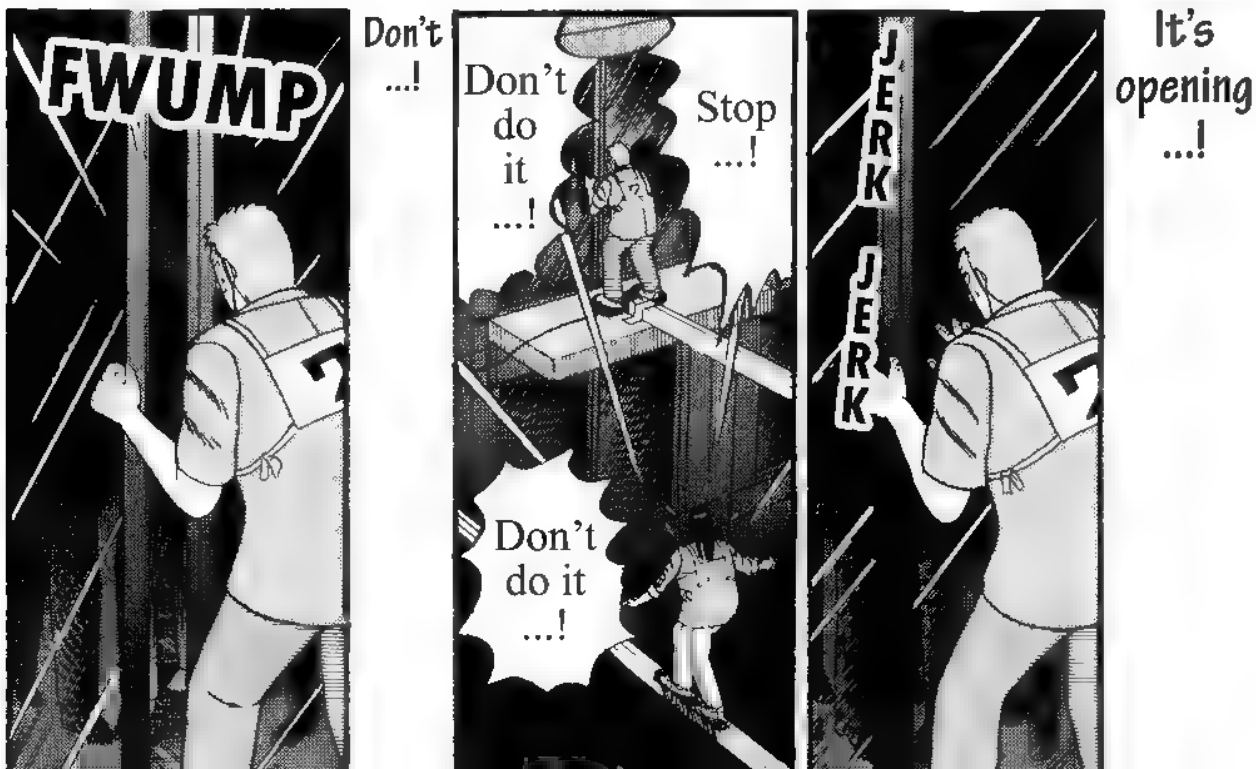
They were the "VIPs" who had come to enjoy the show.
They surrounded him, smiles on their face, as he tried to enter.
..as Sahara struggled to open the window, a crowd stood waiting.
On the other side of the glass...
They were waiting ...
ready to congratulate him on victory.
However, those grins did not seem to be smiles of kindness...
They gathered around the window with grins upon their face.
Waiting in anticipation for something else...!
Their dark anticipation ...
...at a distance from the window...
...forming a wide circle...
They each stood arms locked arms with their neighbor...
What's more...

A preternatural scene...!

SHUDDER
.....
Stop ...
Huh ...?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
What ...?
Don't do it, Sahara ...
10

What are you talking about ...!?
Don't open that window ...!
Something's wrong...!
I said don't...

Ahh ...
Don't do it ...!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
I'm almost there...


FWUMP
Don't ...!
Don't do it ...!
Stop ...!
Don't do it ...!
JERK
JERK
JERK
It's opening ...!

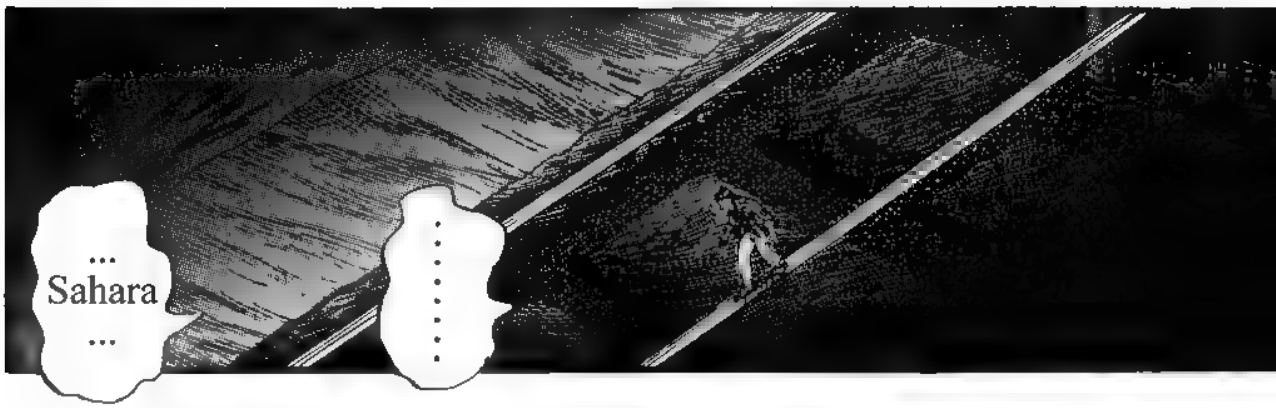
FWOOSH
Sahara ...!
Ngh ...!
7
10

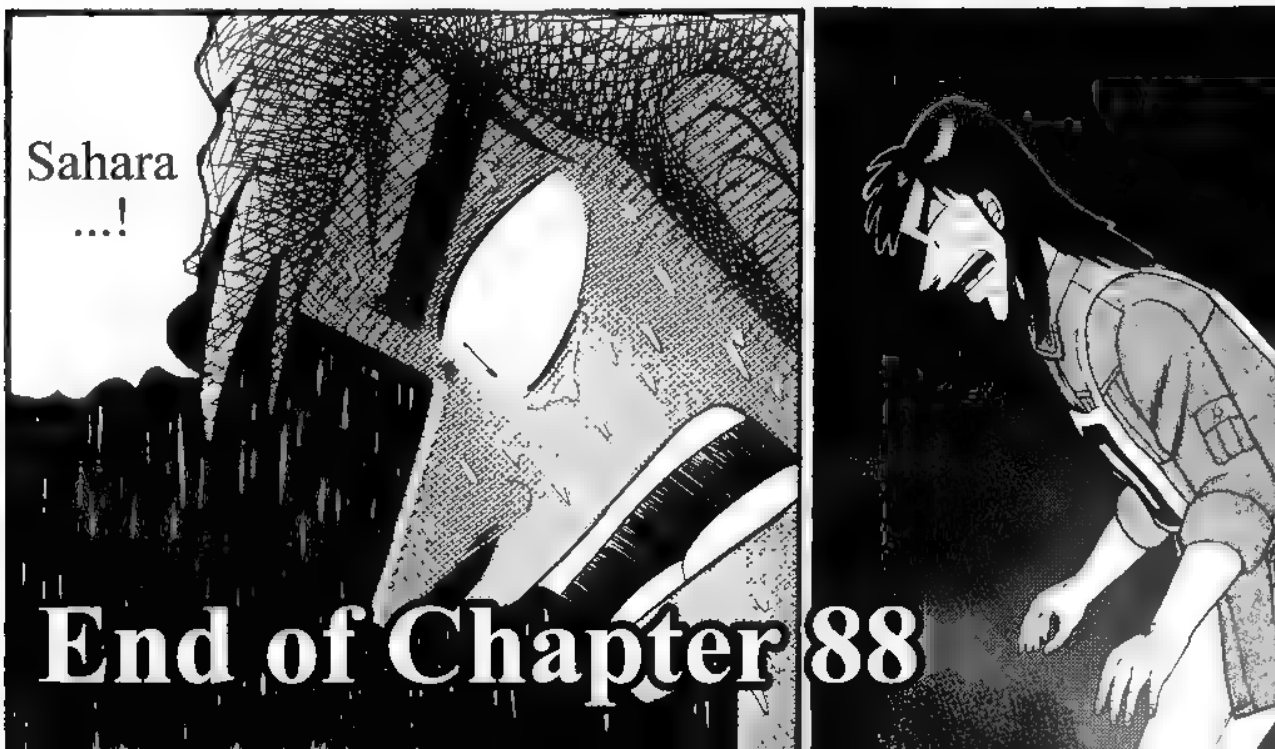
WHOOMPH
Sahara ...!

WAAAHHHH!
Ngh ...!

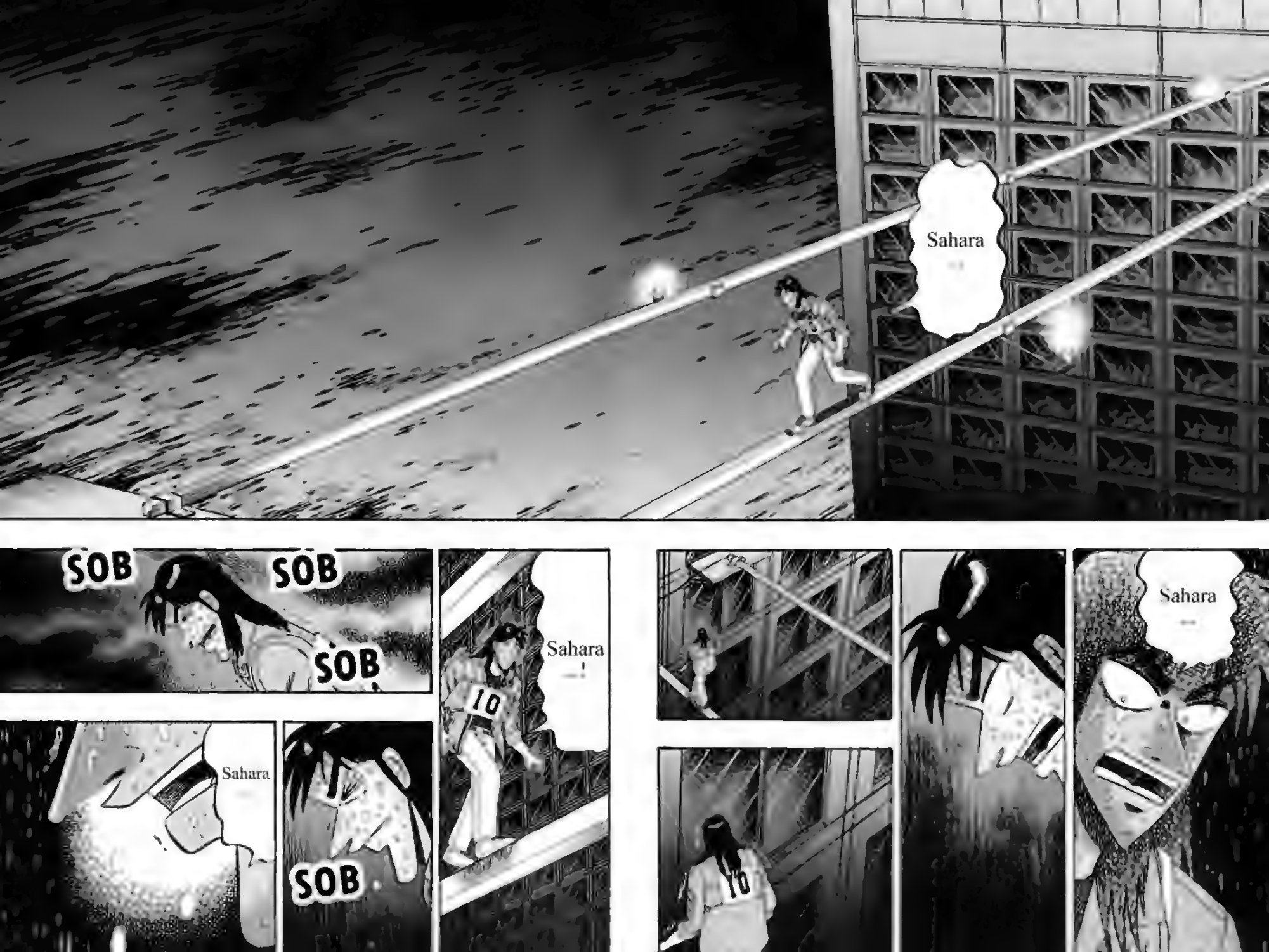
Sahara ...!
Air pressure.
Sahara ...!
The same phenomenon can be experienced at Tokyo Dome...
TOKYO DOME

In other words ...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
Sahara ...!
Sahara ...!
A gust of wind caused by the difference in pressure between inside and out.
Entering the room was impossible from the very start.
SLAM


... Sahara ...
.....

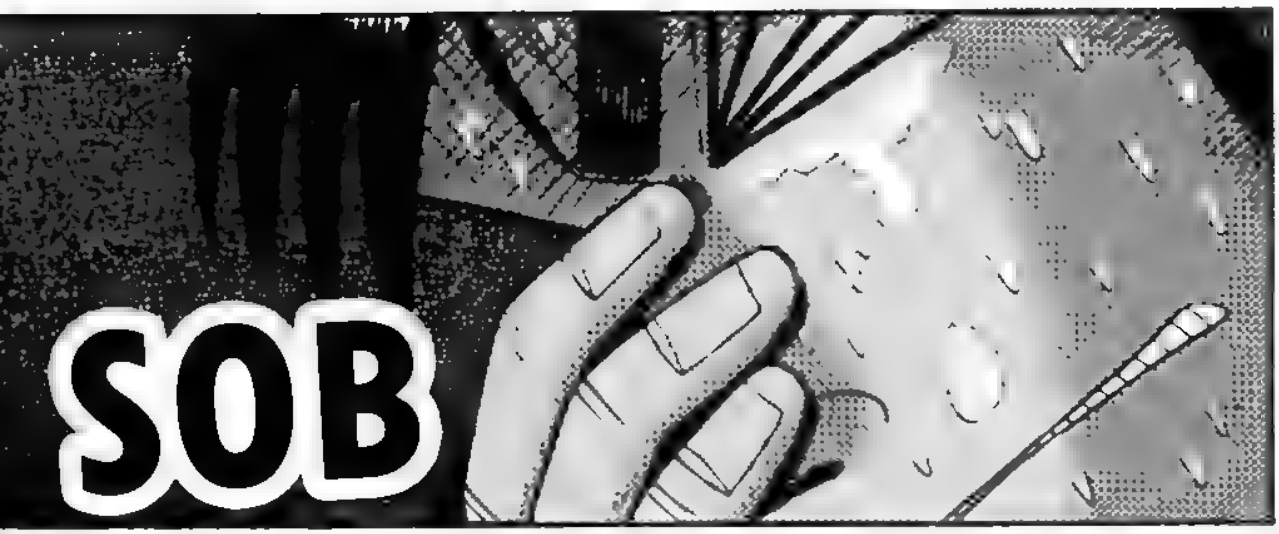

Sahara ...!
End of Chapter 88

Chapter 89: The Firmament Above


Sahara
SOB
SOB
SOB
Sahara
SOB
Sahara
10
Sahara
10
Sahara

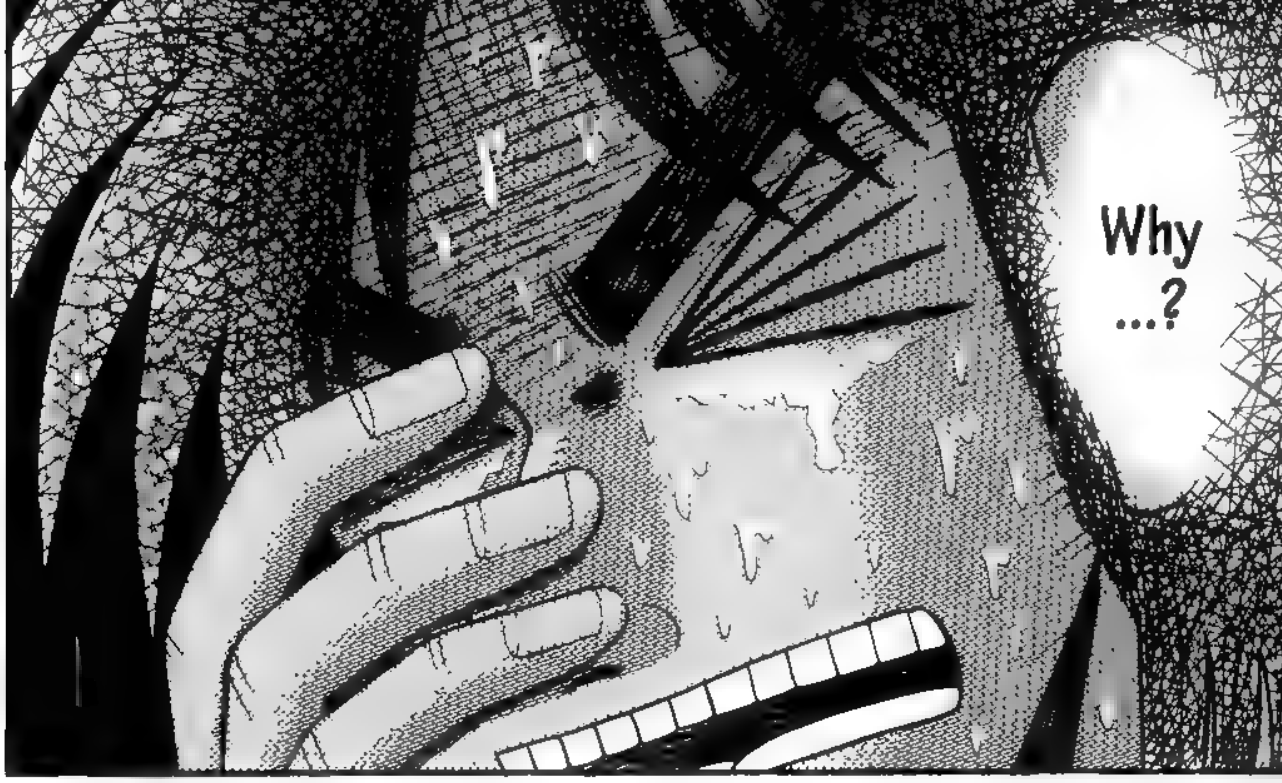
Sahara ...!
SOB
SOB SOB
Hah ...
Hah ...
SOB
SOB SOB
10
Hah ...
Hah ...
10

SOB SOB
SOB


SOB

Why ...?

10


Why ...?

It's too cruel ...!
It isn't possible ...!
I can't believe this...!

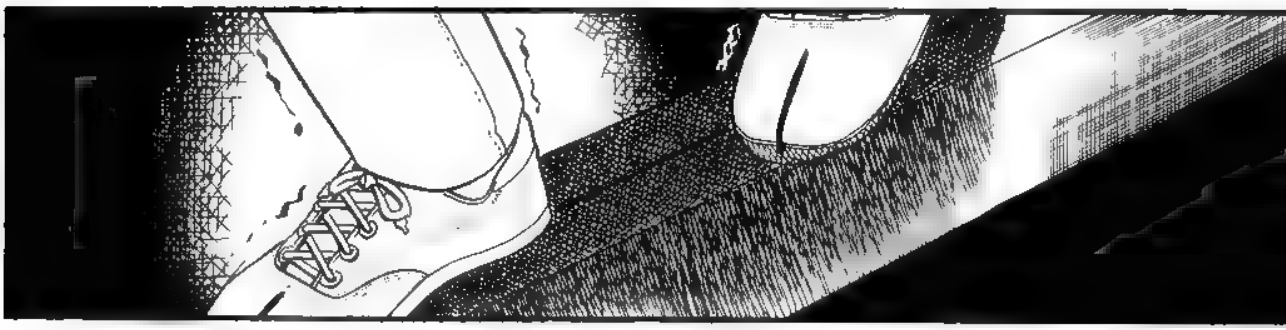
He had made it...!
... by the skin of his teeth ...
...just hanging on.
He had finally made it across

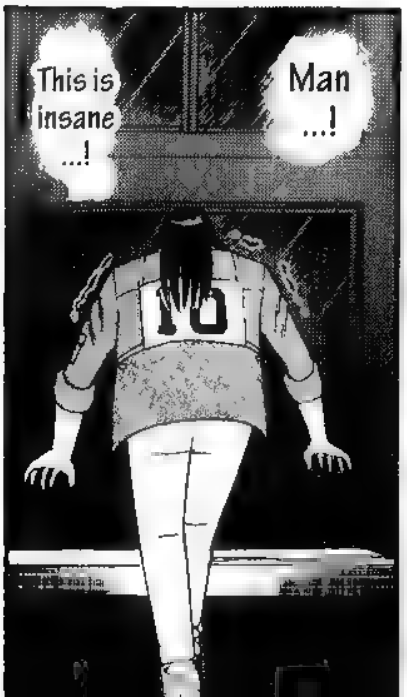
It tore it all away from him ...!
But then that wind ...!
Even his life ...!
His future... his hard-earned dreams...
...were plucked straight from his hands...
Sahara ...
SOB SOB SOB

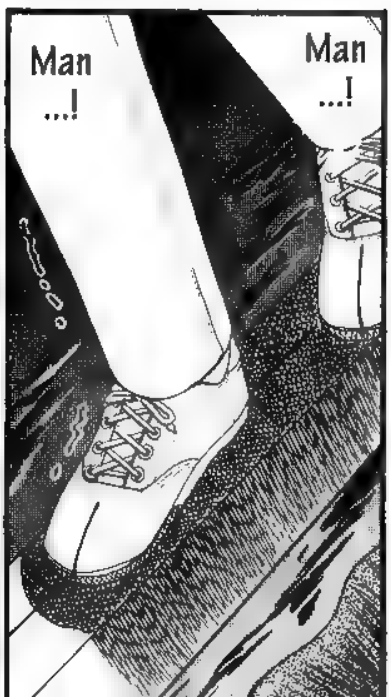
Aughh ...!
STAGGER

Sahara ...!
SOB
SOB
SOB

Auugghhh...!



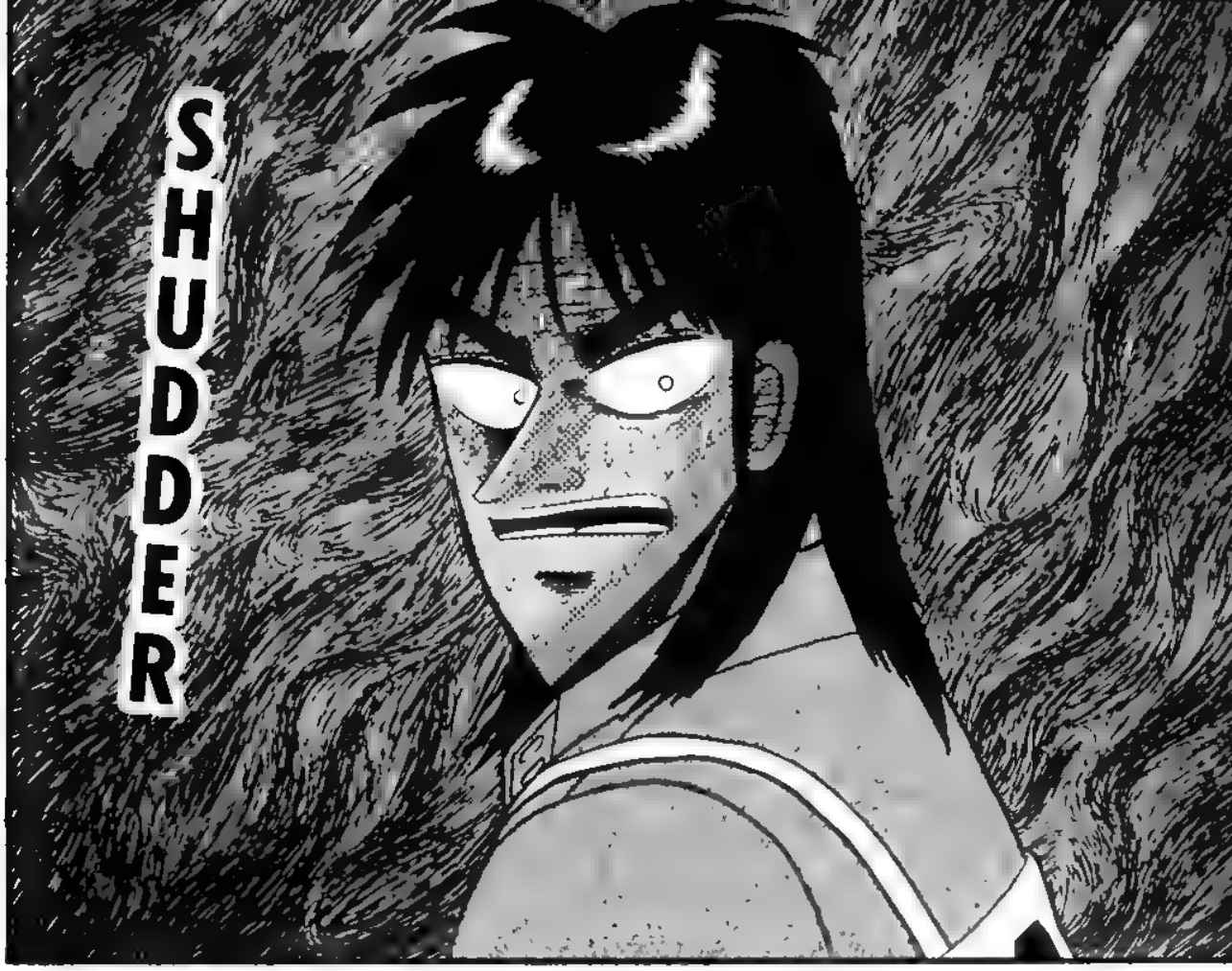

This is insane ...!
Man ...!
10


Man ...!
Man ...!

No ...!

I can head back, one more time ...!?

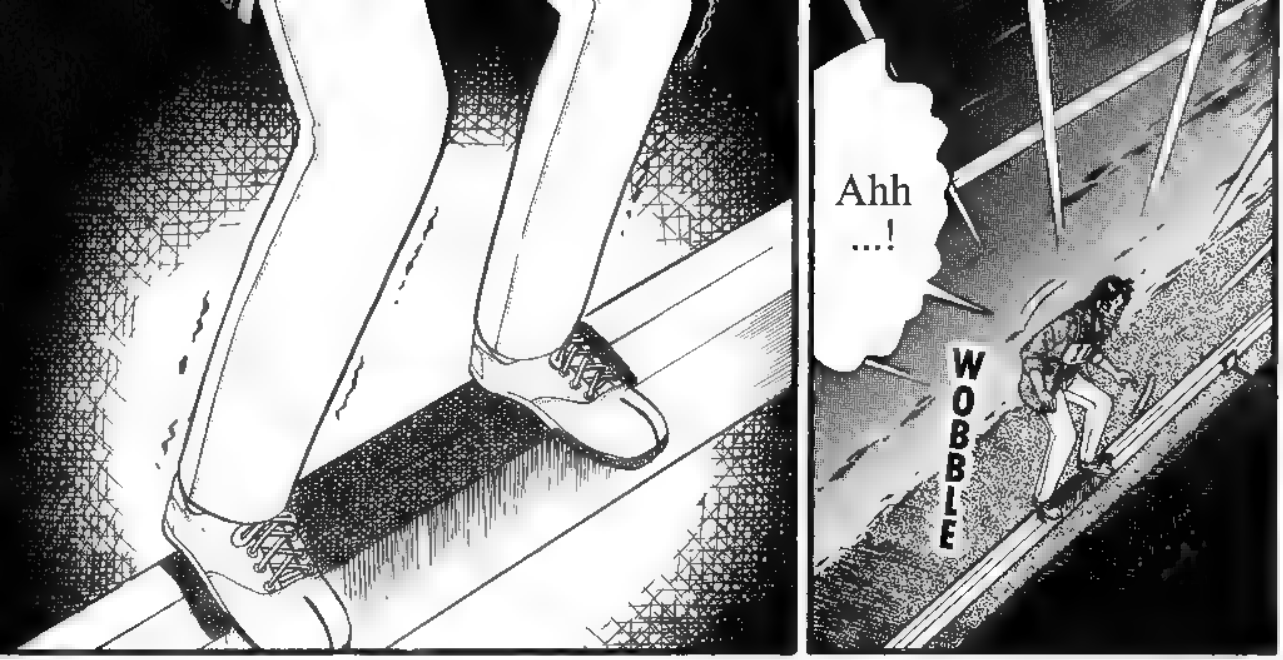
10
Across the bridge ...!?

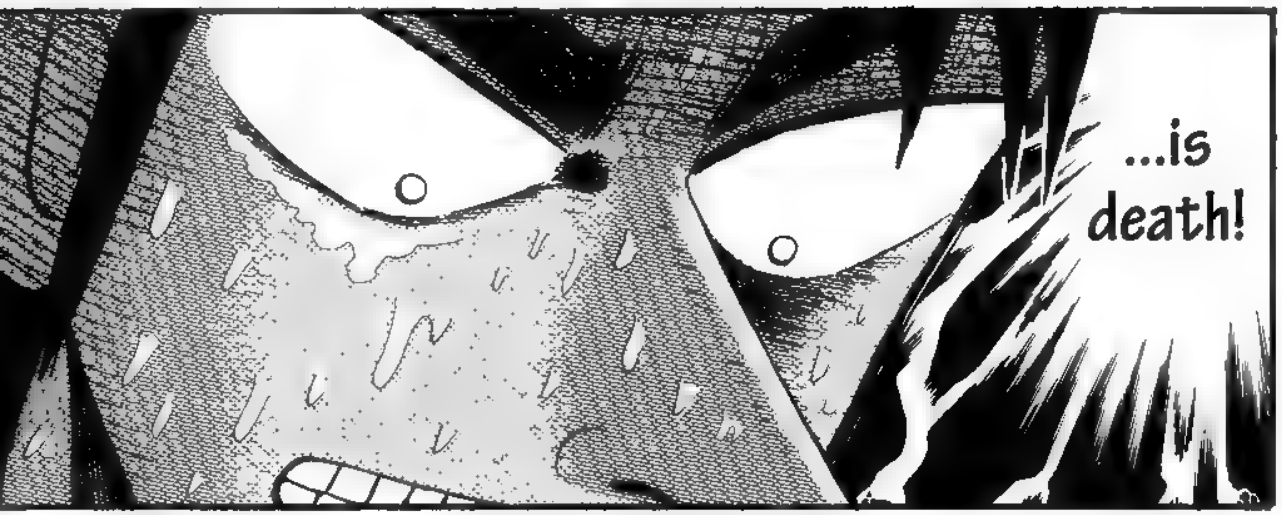

SHUDDER

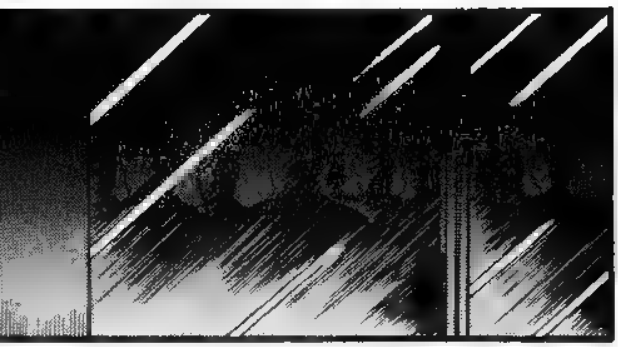
It's impossible ...!

10

...my only choice left ...
10
That means ...
I can't do it ...


Ahh ...!
WOBBLE


...is death!



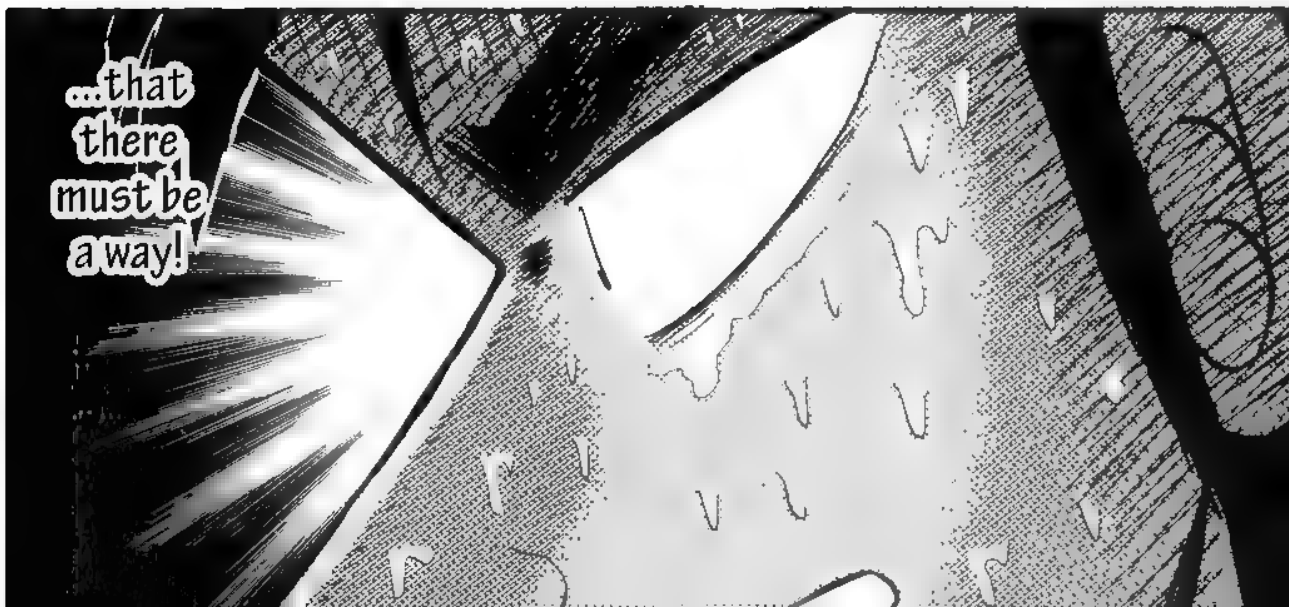
10

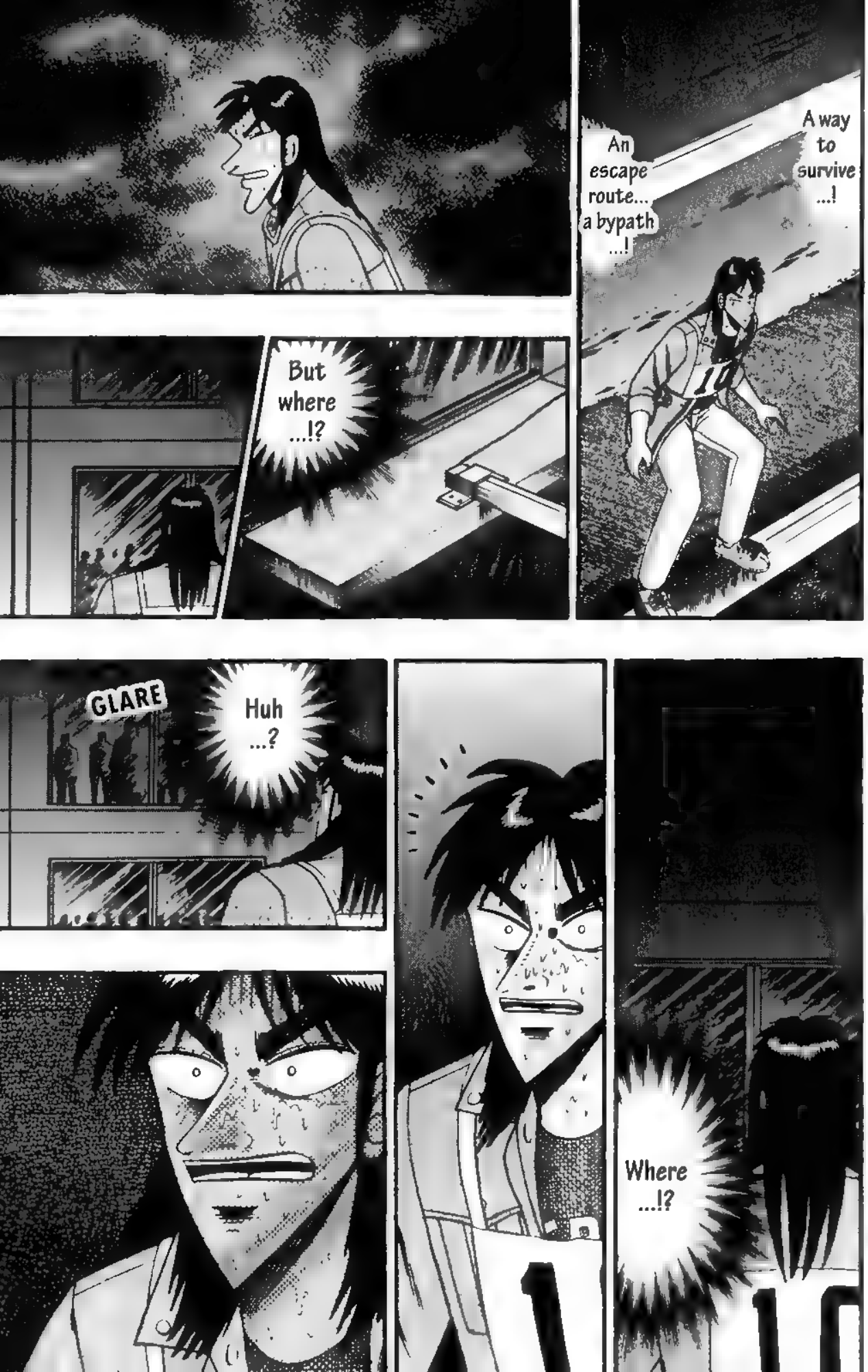
Death ...!
Aahhh ...!
WOBBLE

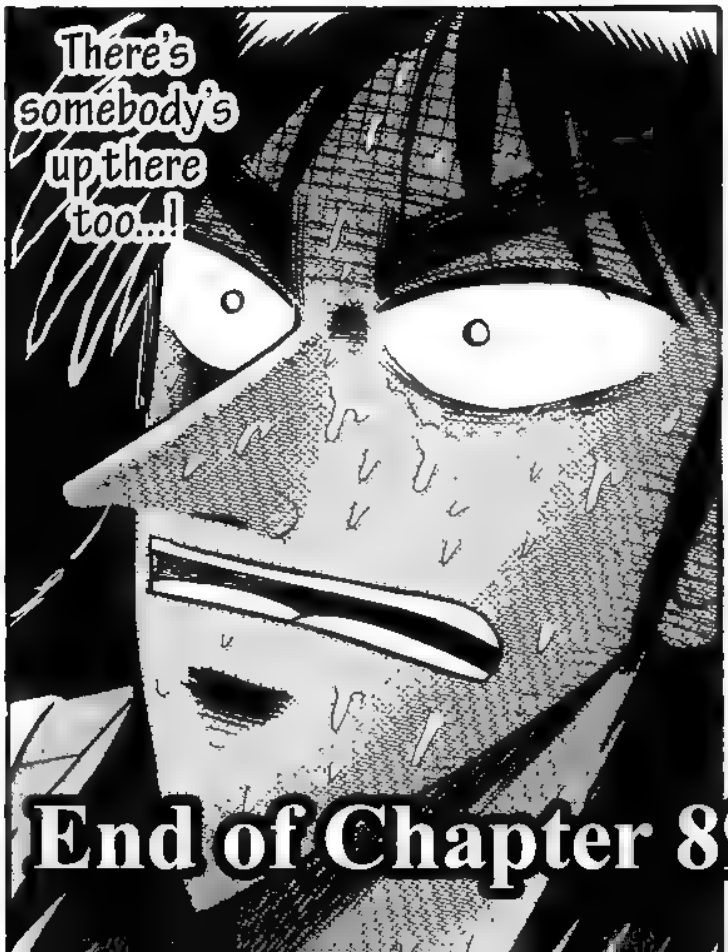
GLARE
It's not mere death they're waiting to see
Look at them
Those smiles
They've been jeering at us all along
To see our stupidity and misfortune
They want to see us slip up
Something more
It's something
GRIN
GRIN
GRIN GRIN
No
10
10

...when the path to safety is there, waiting for us.
... for making the wrong choices...

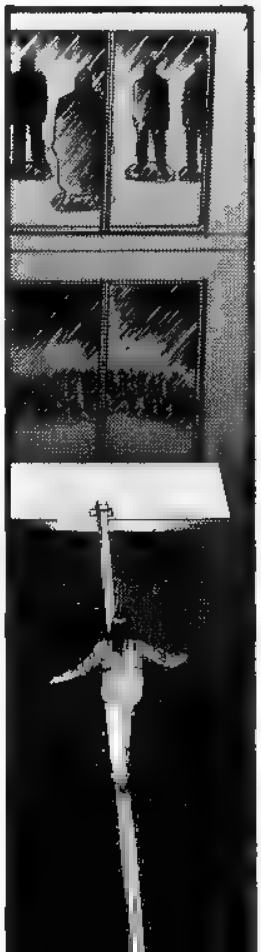
And that means ...
It's how they get their sick pleasure..


...that there must be a way!


An escape route... a bypath ...!
A way to survive ...!
But where ...!?
GLARE
Huh ...?
Where ...!?



There's somebody there...!

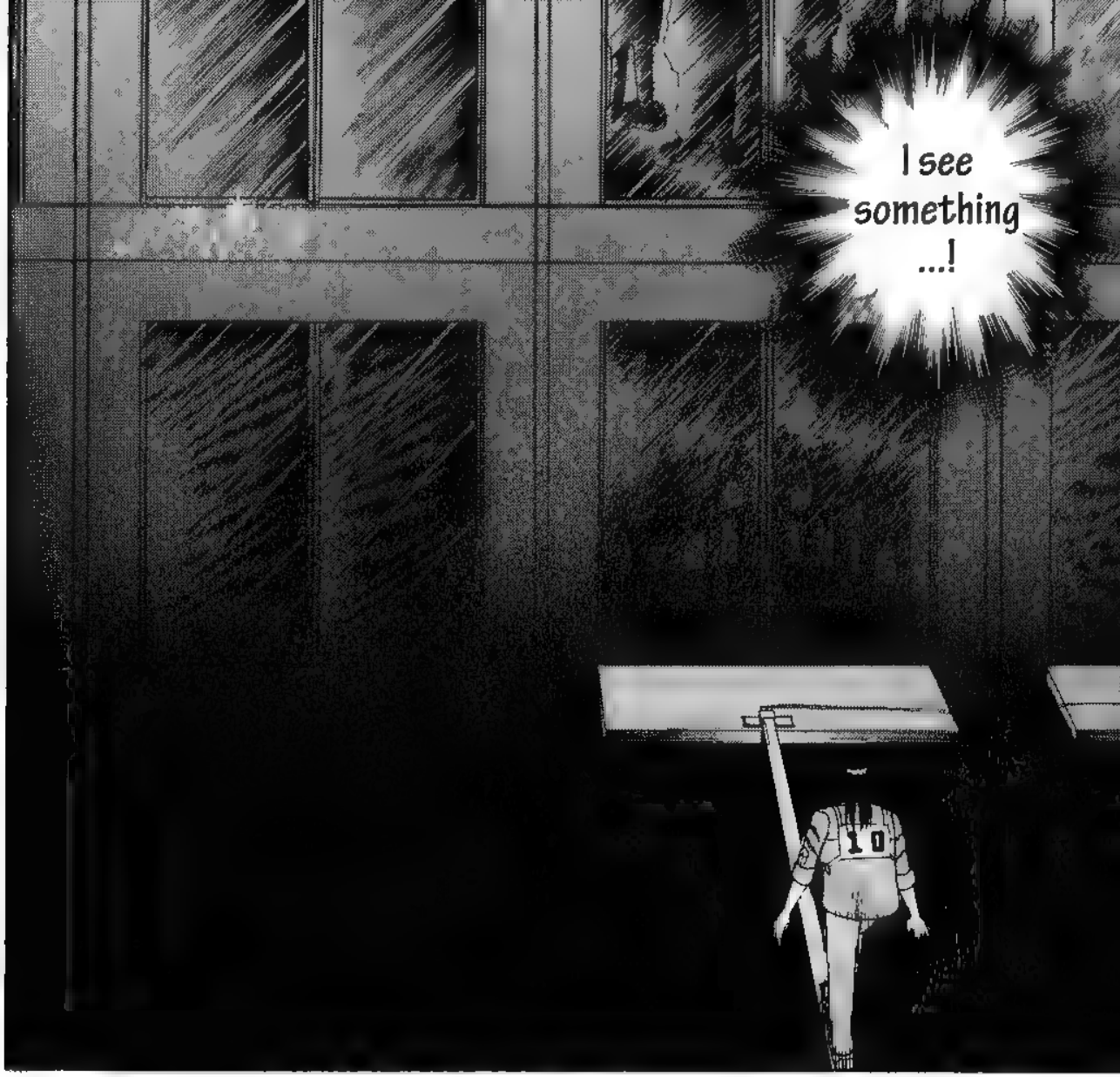


Up there ...!

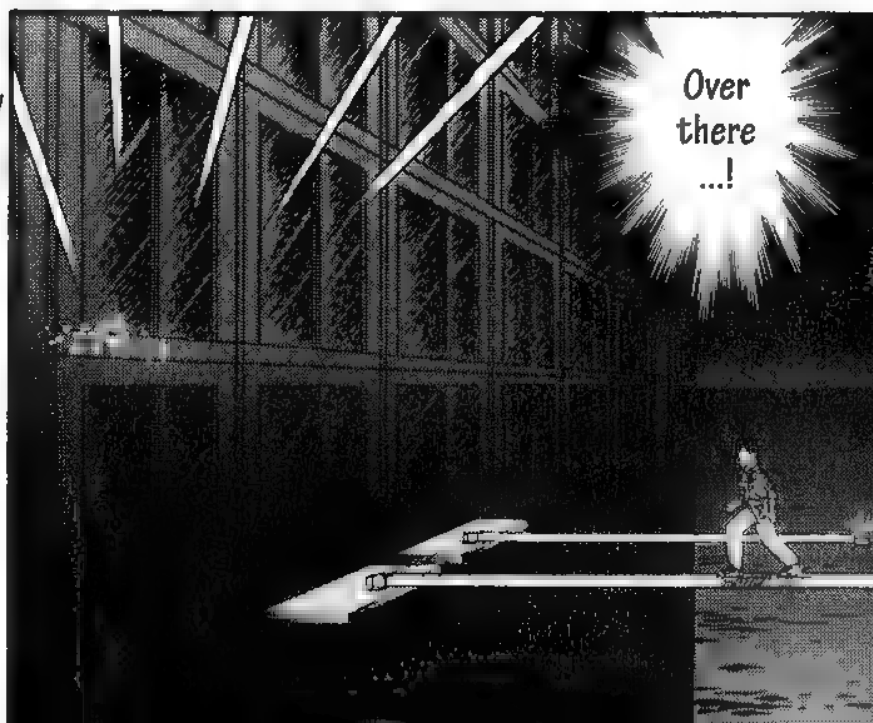
End of Chapter 89

Chapter 90: Blind Spots

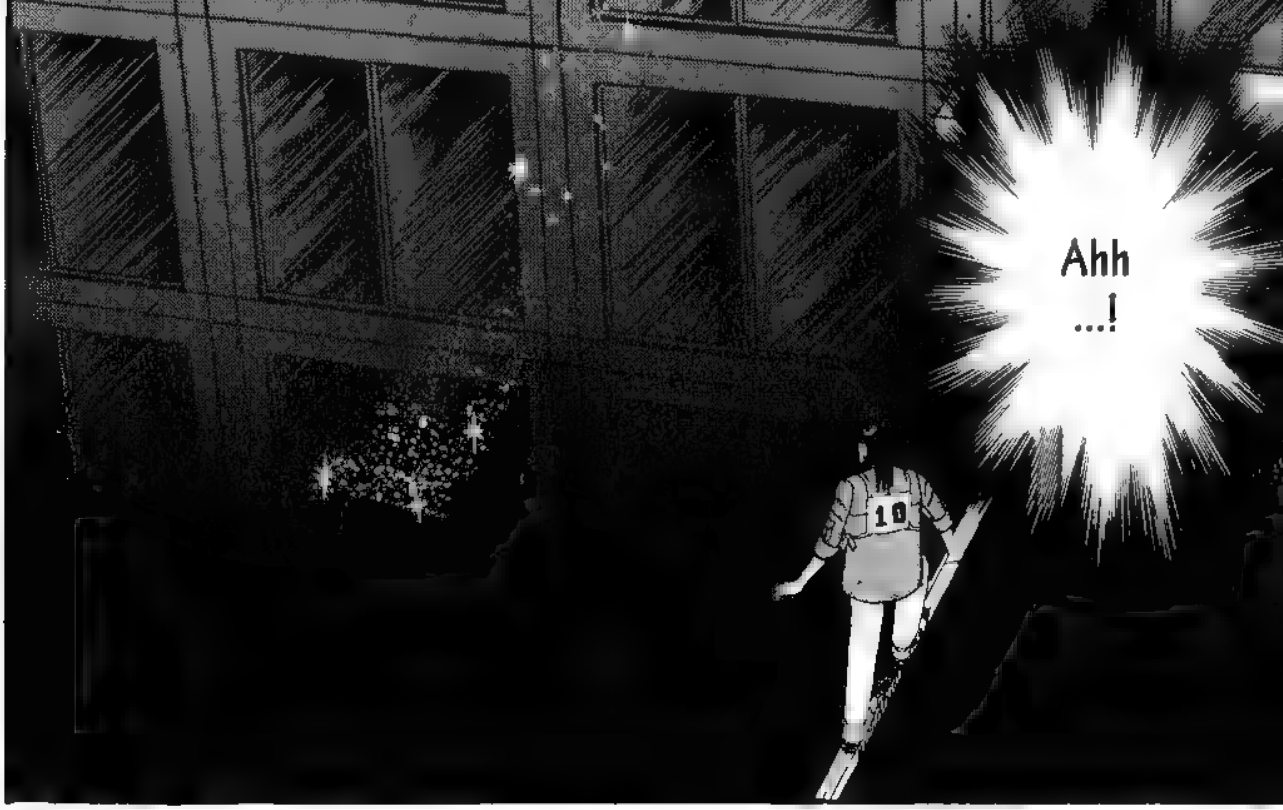
Somebody's up there...!
What is he doing there...?
He's up there by himself...
He's not like the crowd downstairs ...
...but he's all by himself.
...for them not to watch from up above, too...
There's no reason ...
All on his own ...
Huh ...!?
10
10

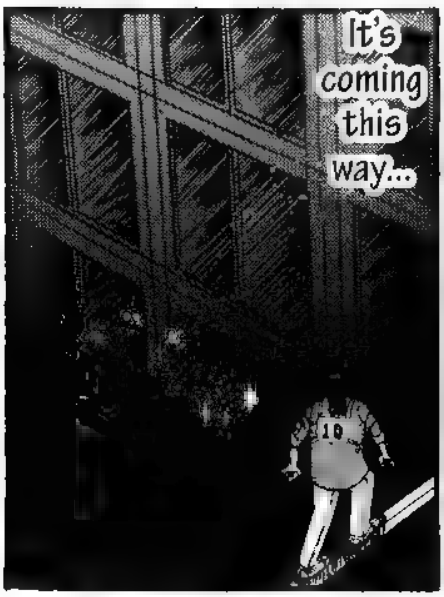


On that window ledge ...!

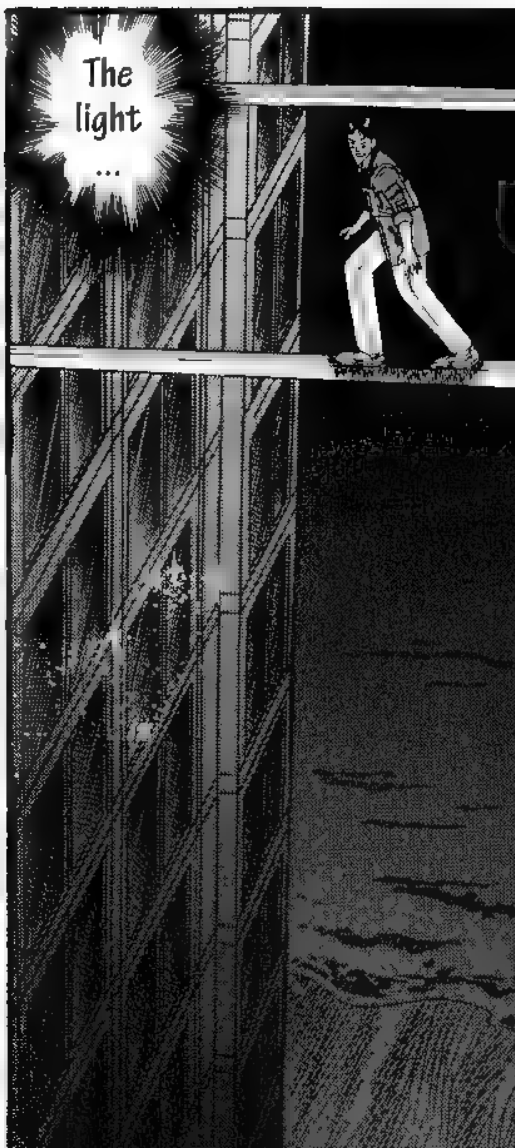


Wait... now that I look closer...
...I can see it down below too.
Something's glittering...
There's something there...
... stretching down...
Like strands of light ...
.... from the window!

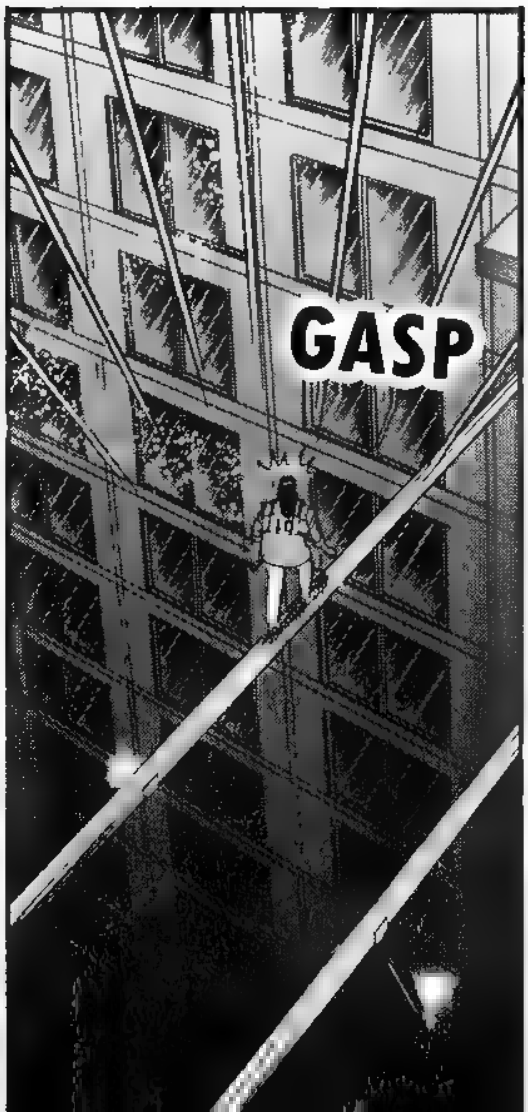

Ahh ...!
10


It's coming this way...
10

It turned ...!
10


The light ...

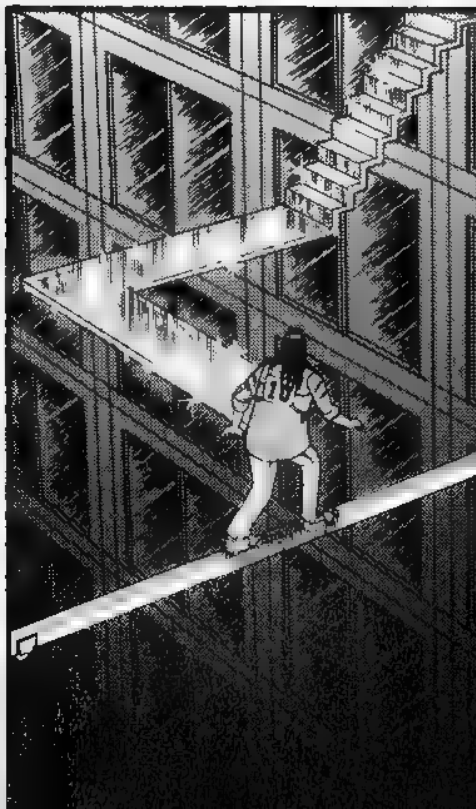
It's getting closer ...!



It
...

It
can't
be
...!

It's glass ...



It's a glass road ...!

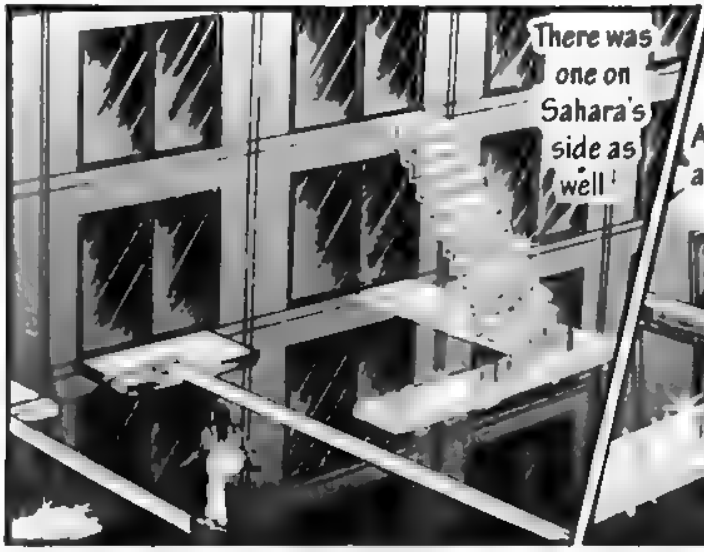
The bypath ...!

And a staircase ...!

It's a Hail Mary, a path to the goal...!
This will let me get past the wind...

A way back... a way to survive ...!

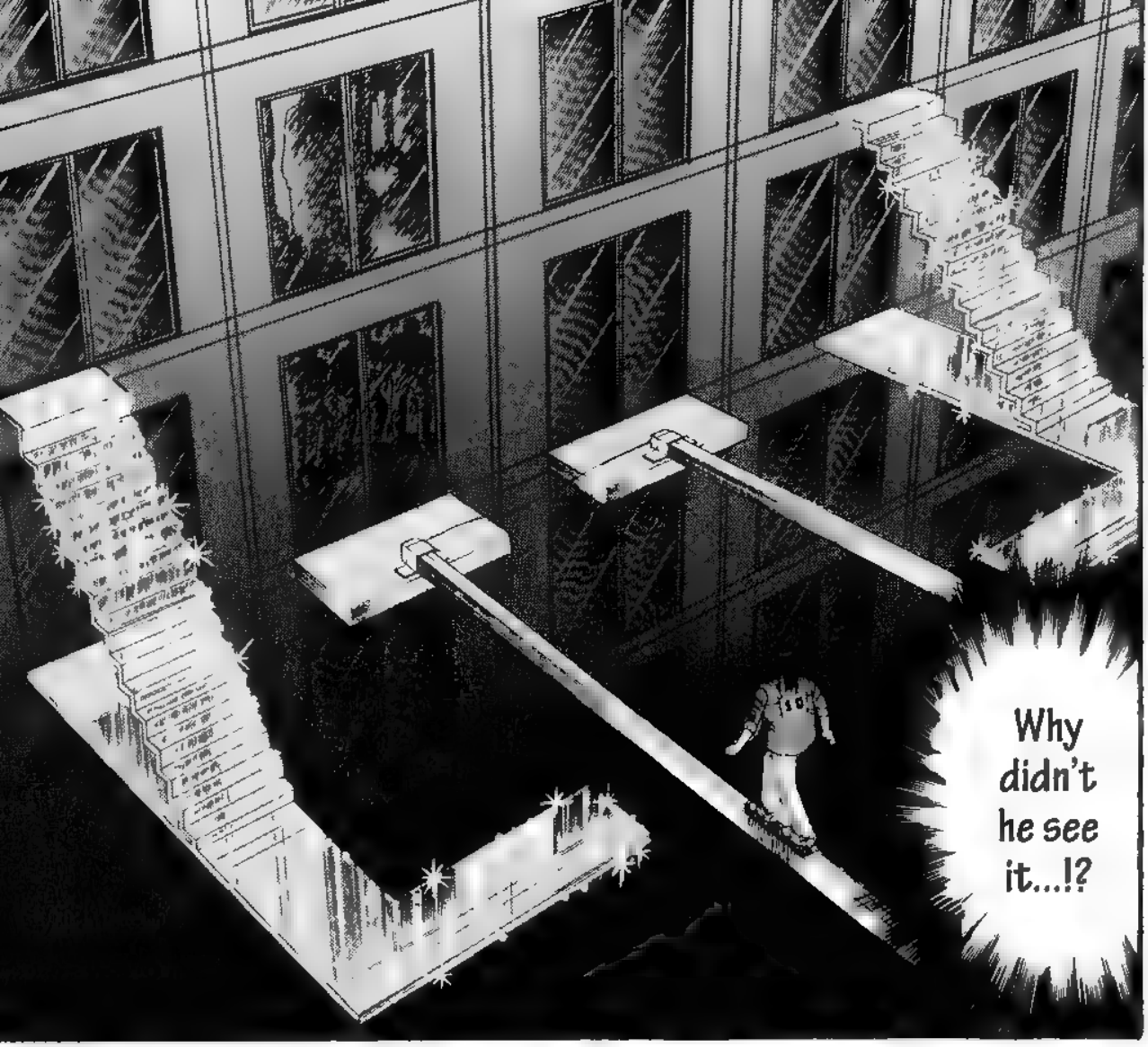
There was another route...!

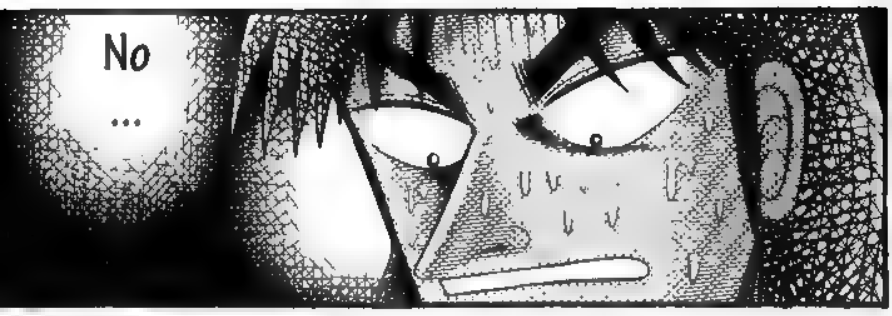

There was one on Sahara's side as well!

As clear as day...
But once you look it's as clear as day

Then why ...!?

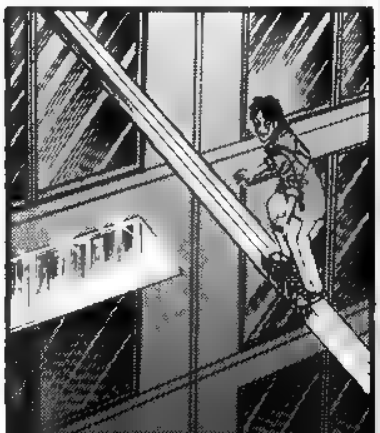
There was one on his side, too!


Why didn't he see it...!?


No
...

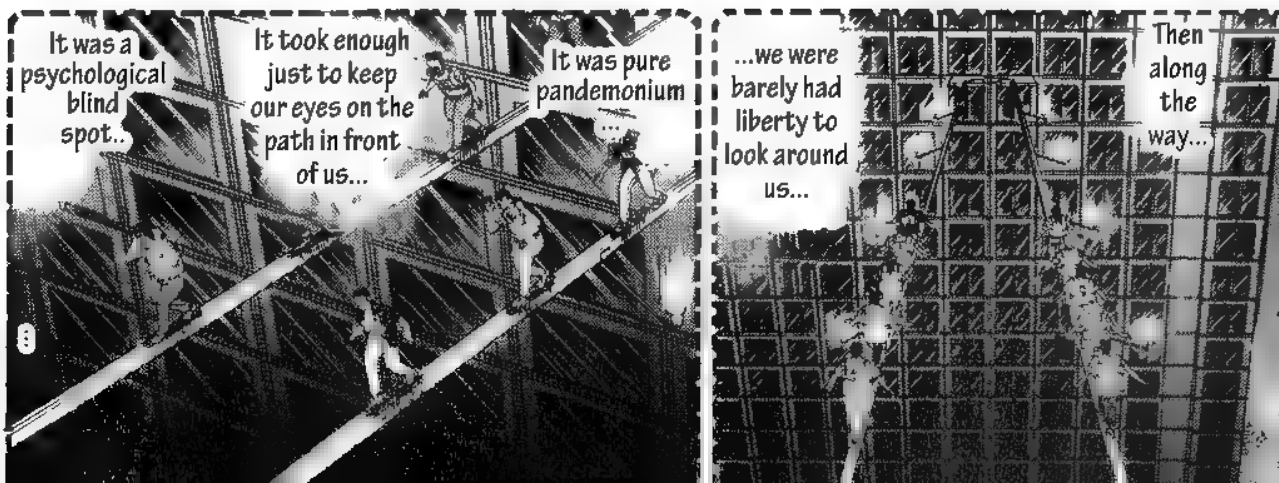
10

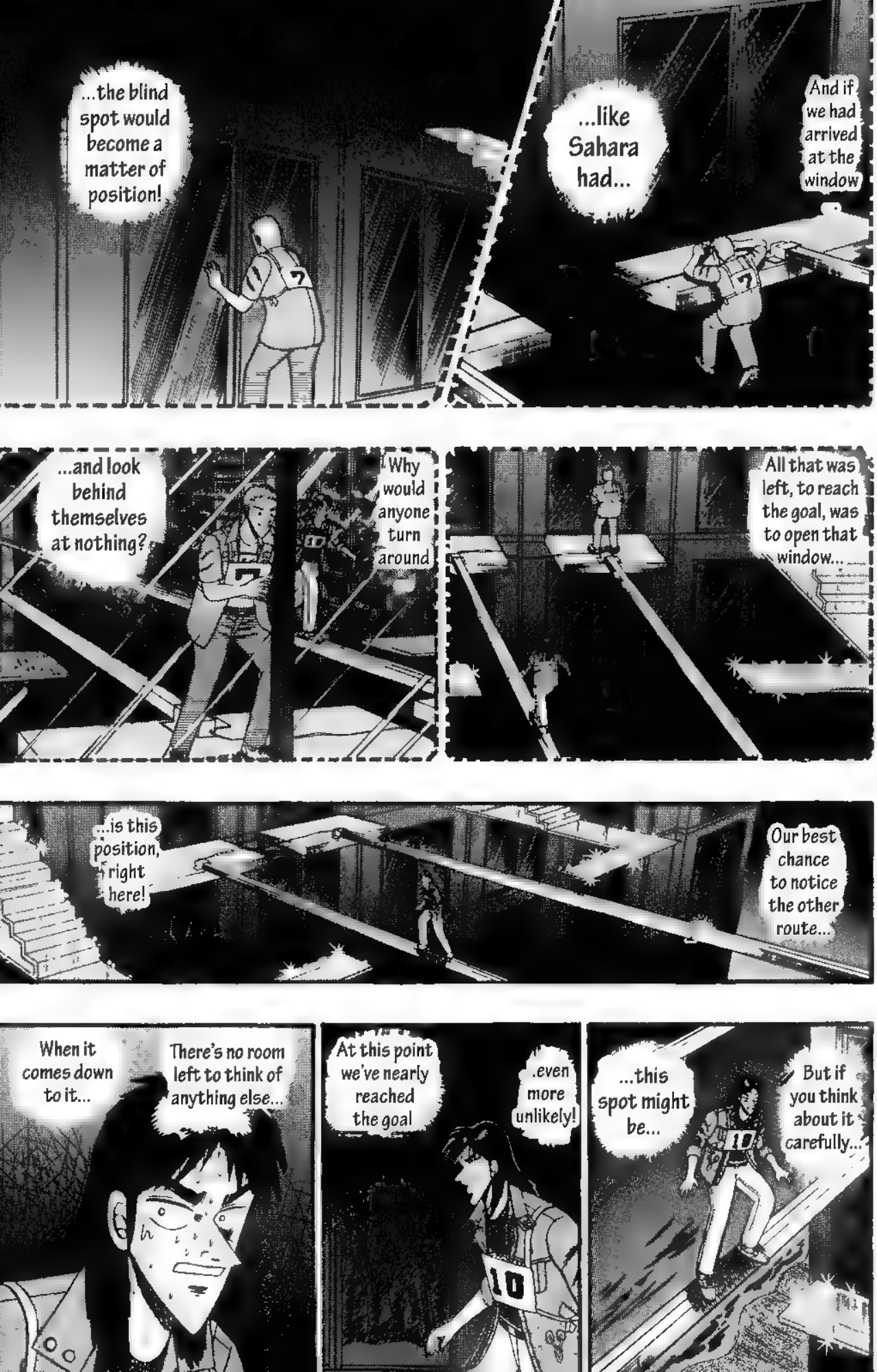
He wouldn't


He wouldn't notice
...

If you think about it ...
It would be easy not to under these circumstances ...!

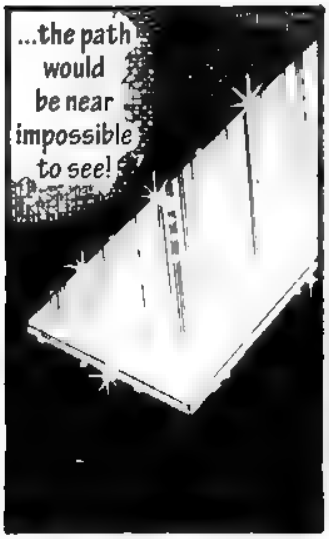
... we couldn't see the other route ...
At the onset of the game, from far away ...
...the stairs were in our blind spots from the start.
Physically and mentally ...


It was a psychological blind spot..
It took enough just to keep our eyes on the path in front of us...
It was pure pandemonium ...
...we were barely had liberty to look around us...
Then along the way...


...the blind spot would become a matter of position!
...like Sahara had...
And if we had arrived at the window
...and look behind themselves at nothing?
Why would anyone turn around
All that was left, to reach the goal, was to open that window...
...is this position, right here!
Our best chance to notice the other route...
When it comes down to it...
There's no room left to think of anything else...
At this point we've nearly reached the goal
.even more unlikely!
...this spot might be...
But if you think about it carefully...

...in order to notice.
...with no clear path to the goal...

...like I am now...
You'd have to be stuck...


...the path would be near impossible to see!

...and things went normally ...
As long as we stayed focused

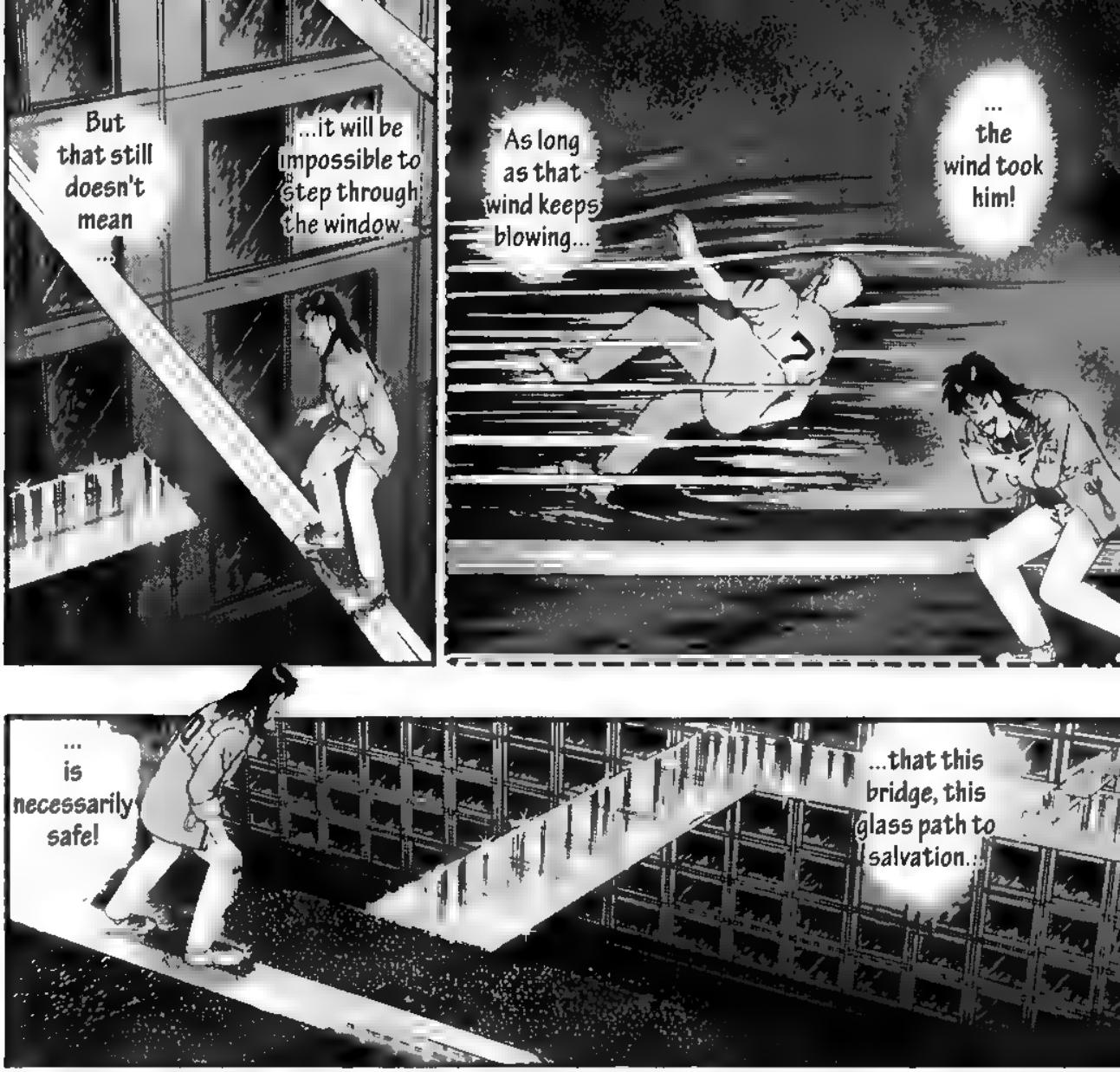
An impossible salvation...! An impossible hope...!
Without once despairing, it would be impossible...
End of Chapter 90

Chapter 91: Admittance

Could it be ...!?

ざわ…
ざわ…
……
ざわ…
ざわ…

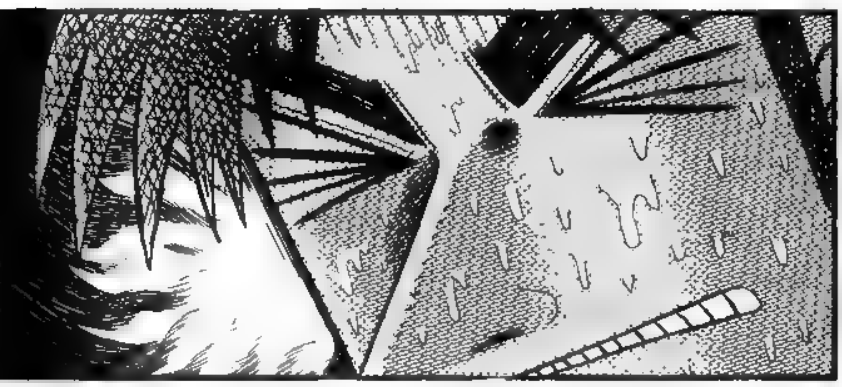
…through the main window
It's true that when Sahara tried to enter…
Is it really for real?
But is it for real…?
Salvation…


But that still doesn't mean ...
...it will be impossible to step through the window.
As long as that wind keeps blowing...
... the wind took him!
... is necessarily safe!
...that this bridge, this glass path to salvation...

This could be just another one of their traps ...!

In fact ...

10



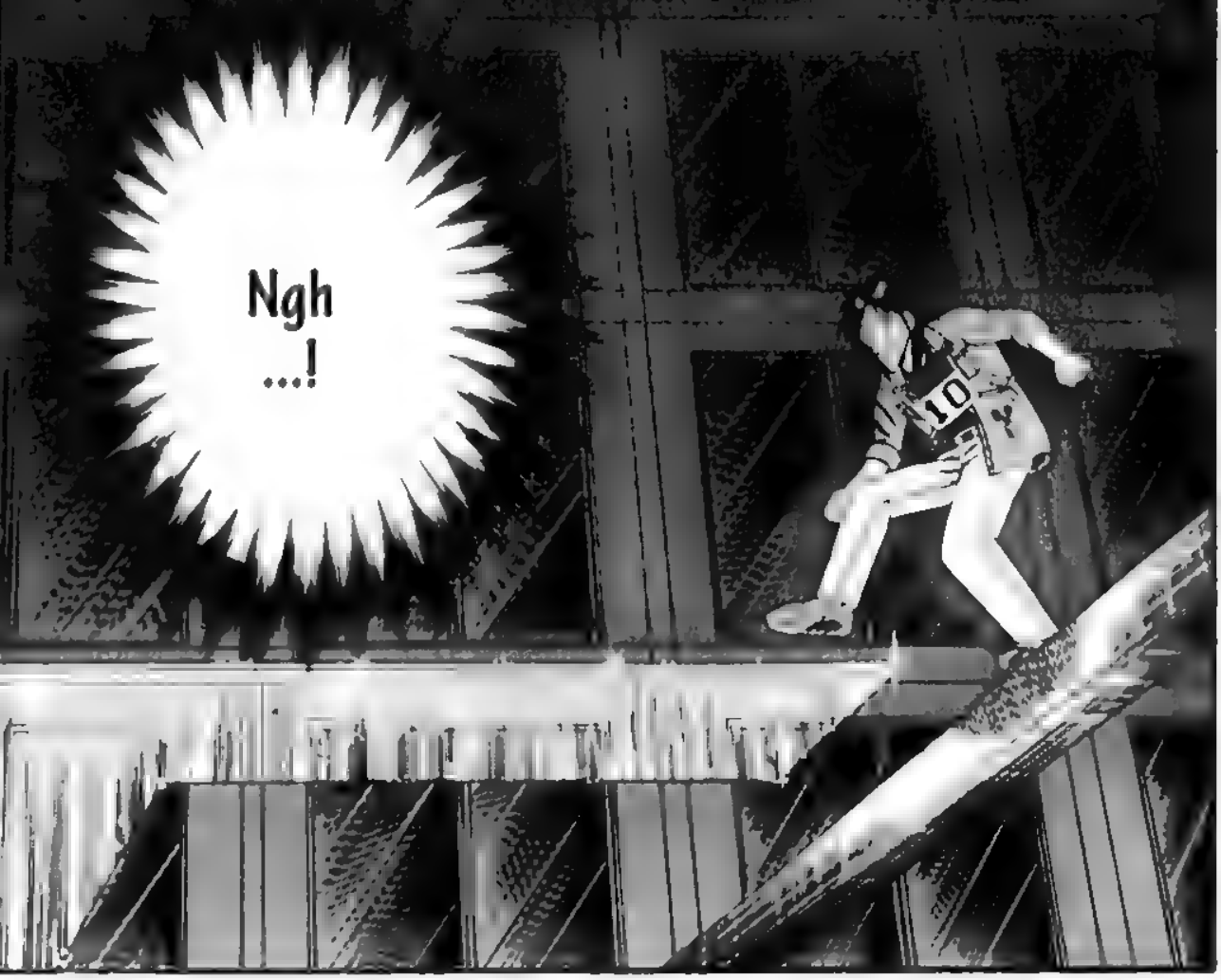
...
that that isn't what will happen!
There's no guarantee ...
10

1

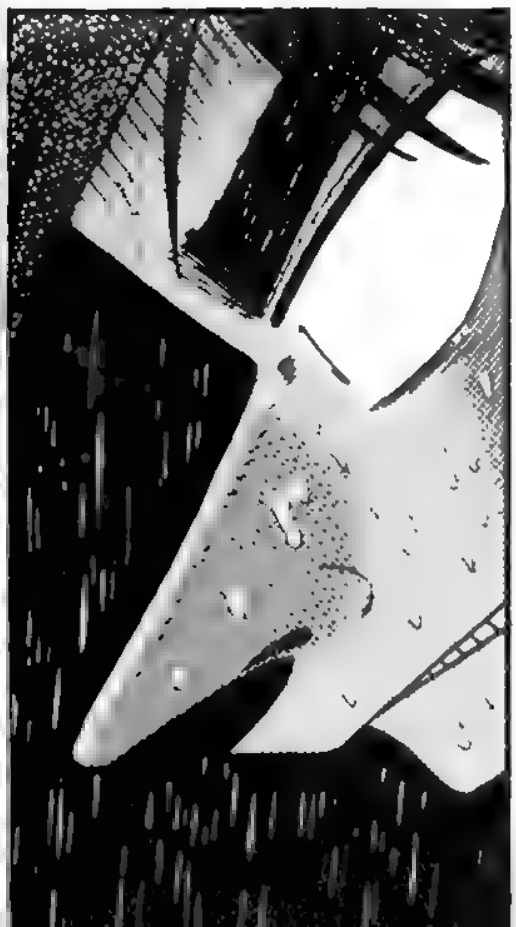
It's possible ...!
It could break ...!
But ...

Still
...
Still
...
Right
now
...
It's the
only way
...!

...
it's the only choice I've got left!
10
Ngh ...!
10


Ngh
...!
10

STEP

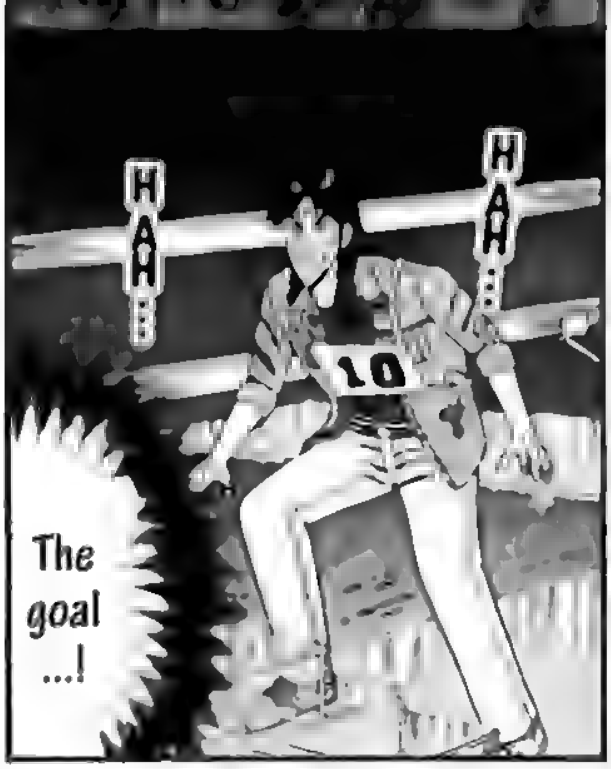


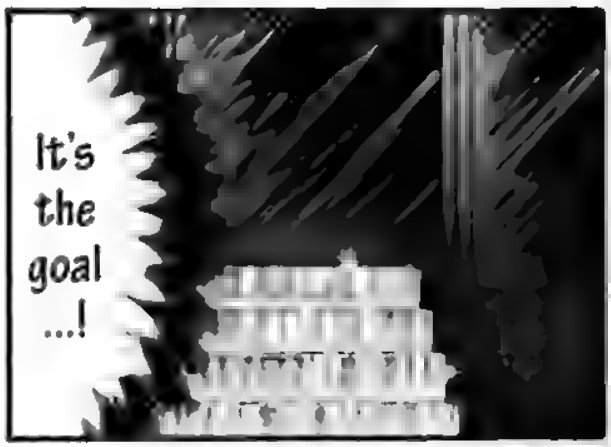
Ngh
...!
10

Woah ...!
STEP
10
Ahh ...

Waaahhhh…!

Yes ...!
Yes...! Yes...!
Yes ...!
SOB SOB SOB
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
I won the game ...!
I won ...!


HAH
HAH
10
The goal ...!

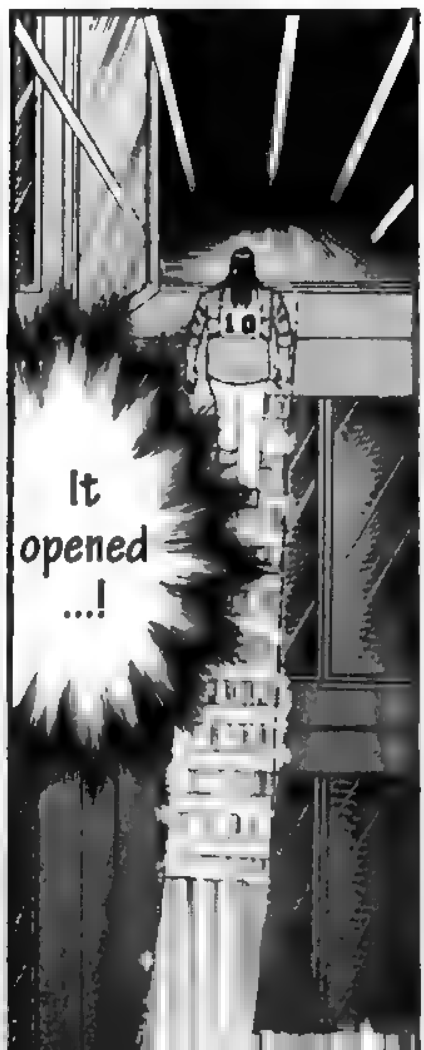

It's the goal ...!

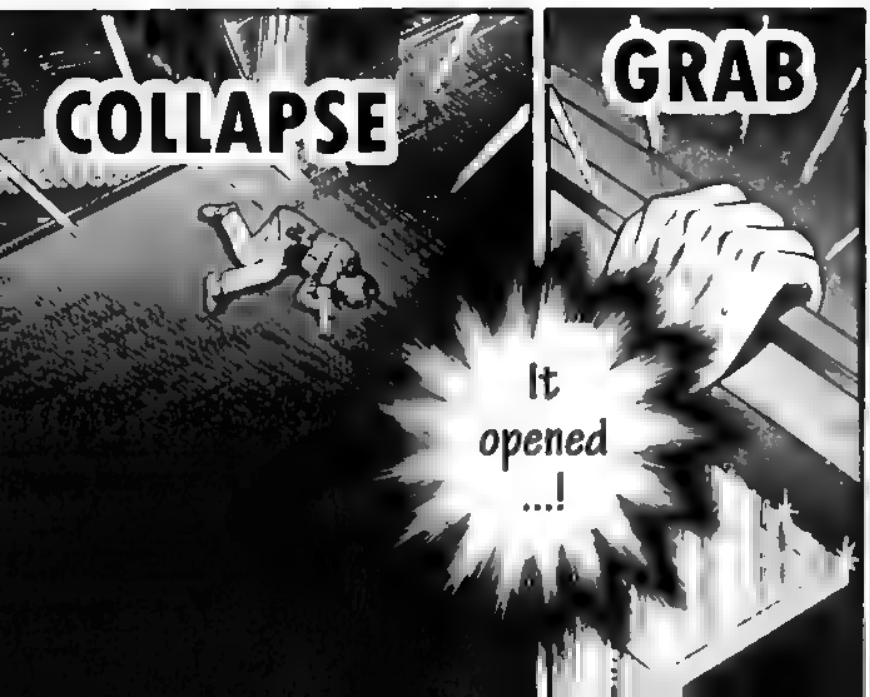
FWOOM
10

I won ...!
HA...
10
HAH

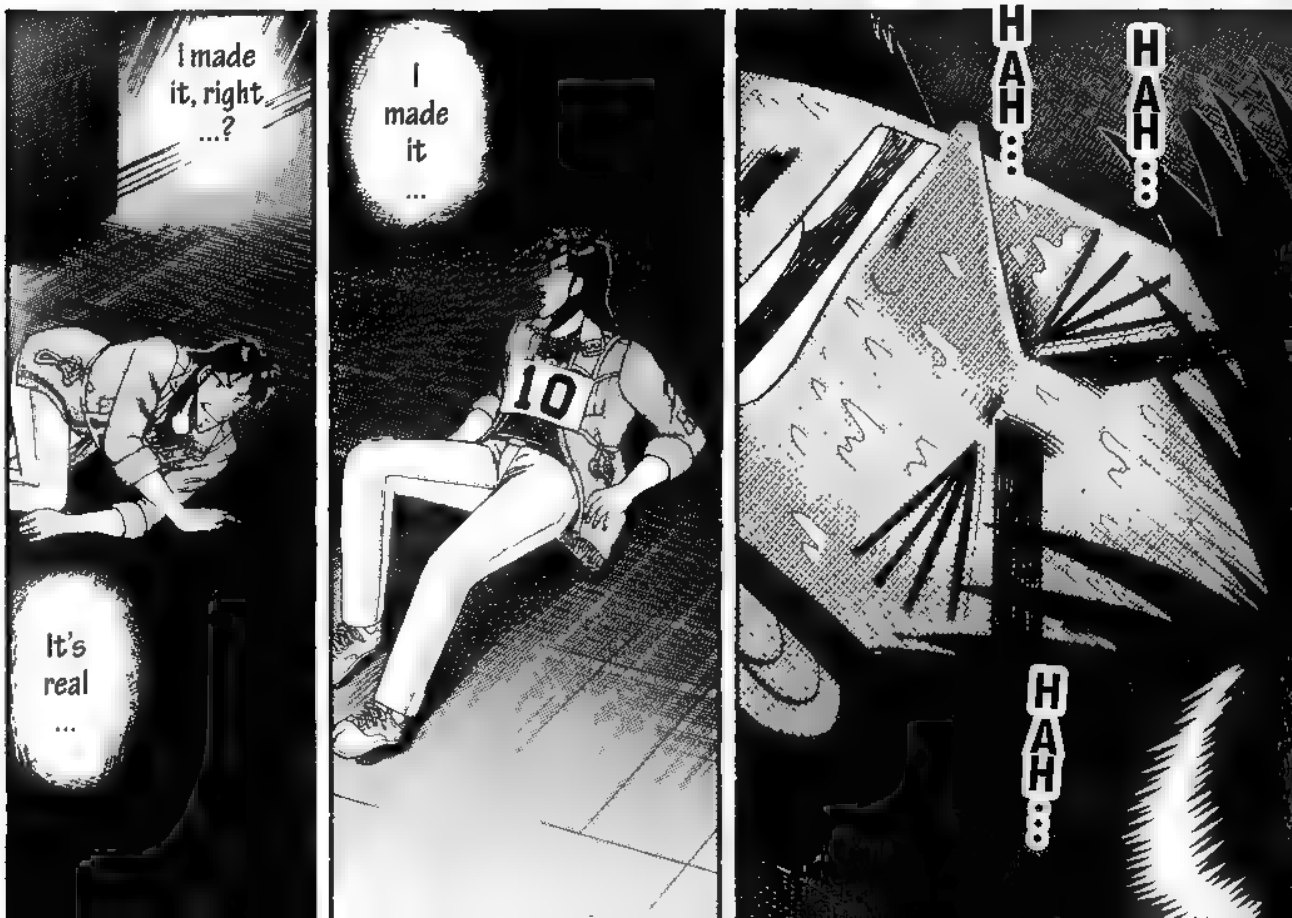
Ahh ...!

The window opened ...!
10

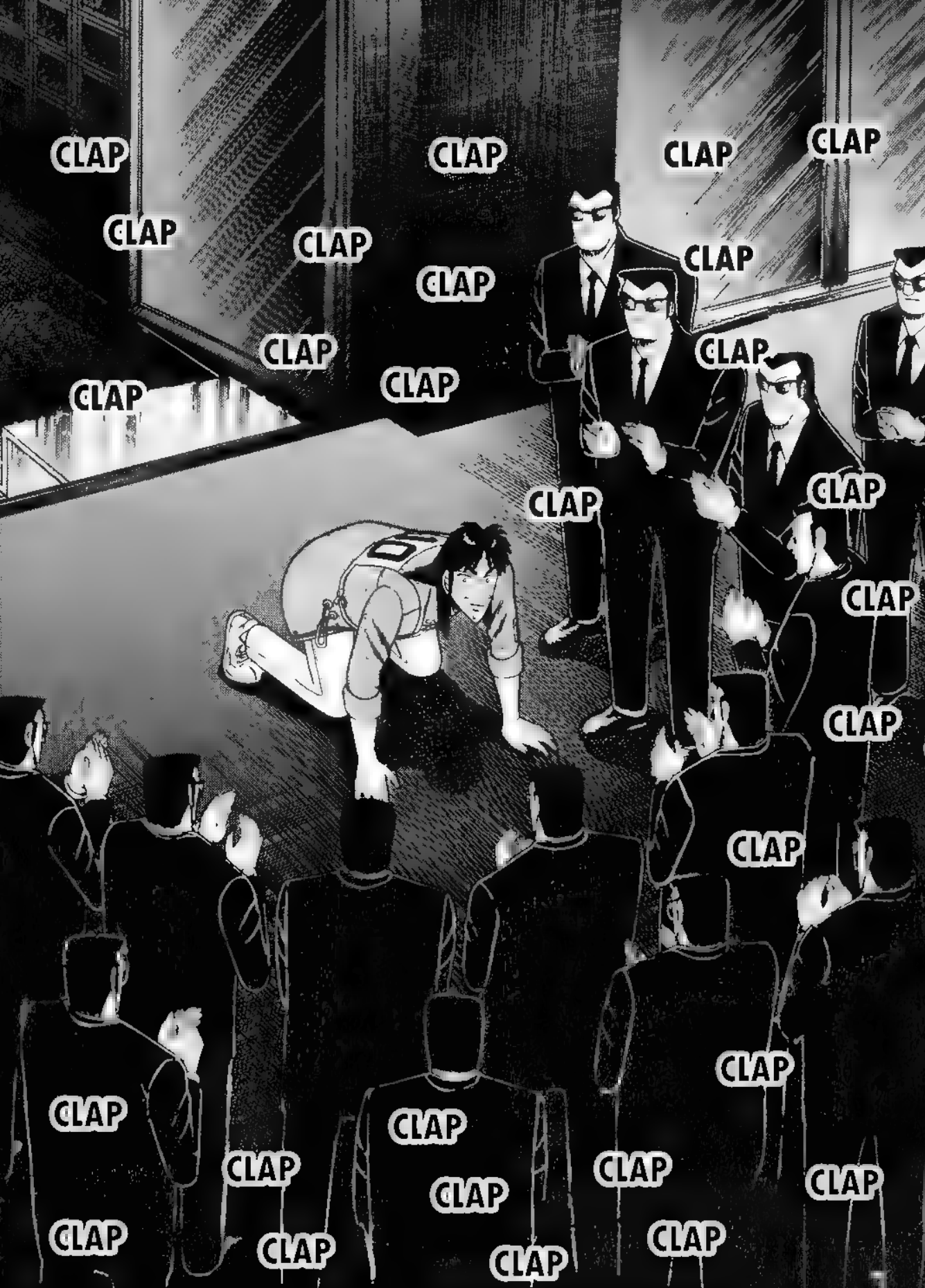

10
It opened ...!


COLLAPSE
GRAB
It opened ...!

HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

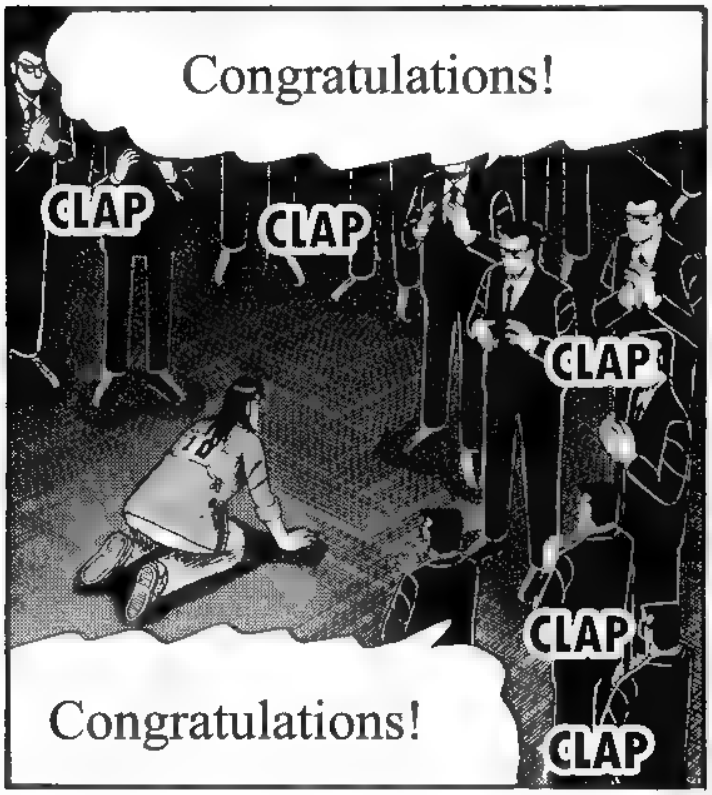

I made it, right ...?
It's real ...
I made it ...
10
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

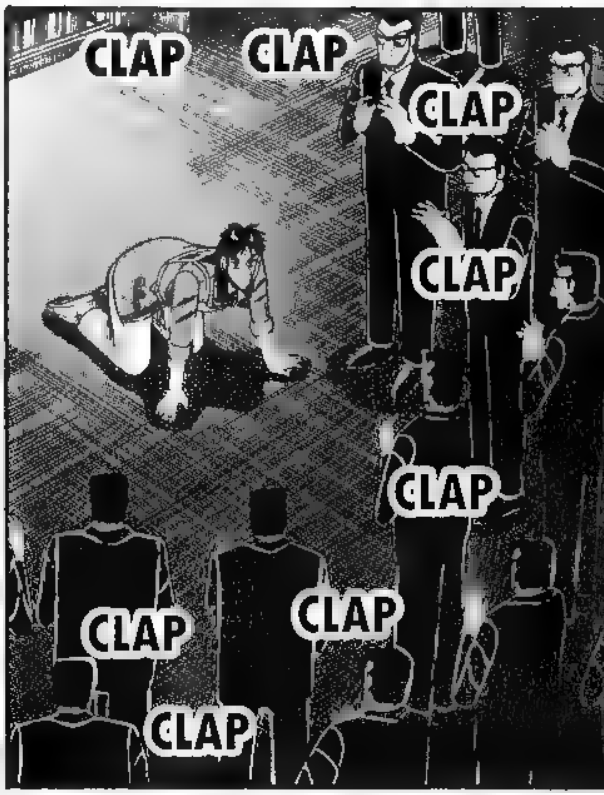
It's the goal ...!
The goal ...!
I really made it ...!
GASP
Huh ...?
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP



End of Chapter 91

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


Congratulations!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Congratulations!


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Congratulations ...!

Chapter 92: Paying Court

Excellent, excellent ...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Tonegawa ...
Hehehe ...

.....
Most impressive ...

You performed beautifully ...

Save it ...!
Congratu ...
SLAP
What's good about this ...!?
Congratulations for what...!?
Just save it ... You gotta be kidding ...!
10
10
Huh ...!?
WHOOMPH

SOB
How many people died here ...!?
What's wrong with you ...!?
SOB
SOB
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
.....
Cough it up ...!
HAH...

Just the money ...!

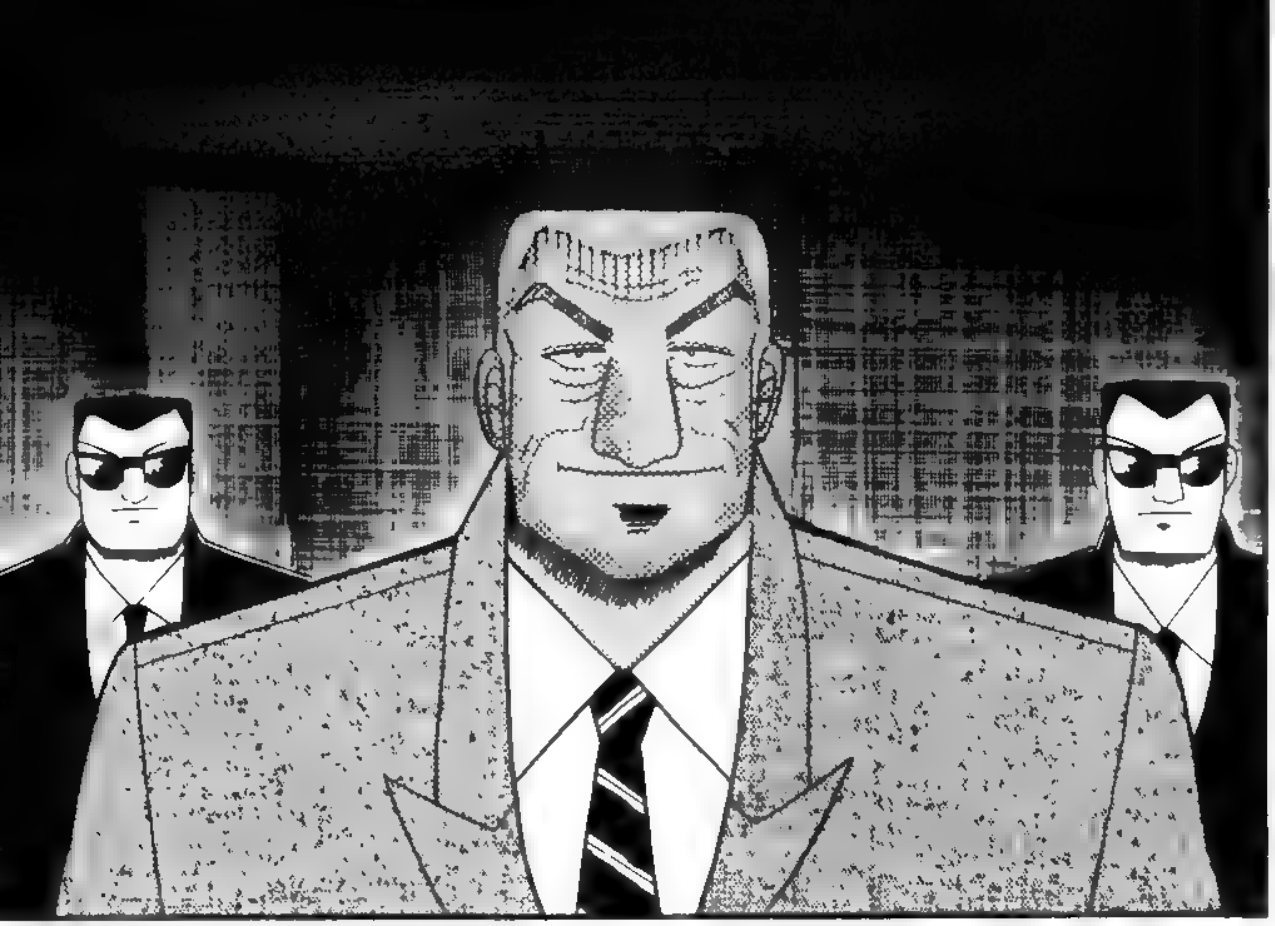
I don't need any more of your self serving praise!
Got it ...!?

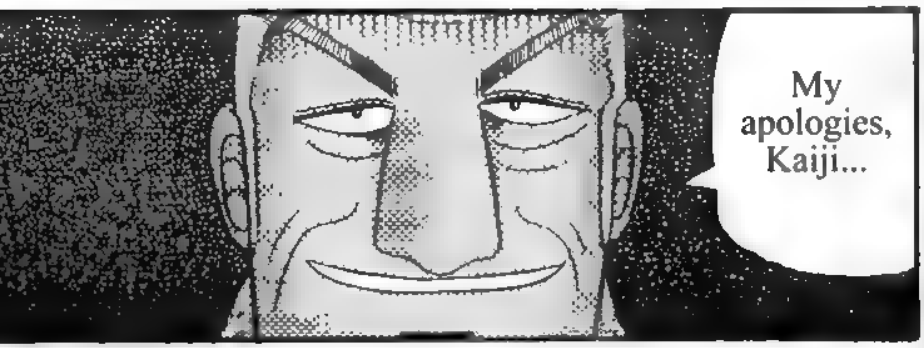
Two tickets ...

... and hand over the money!
Shut your mouth ...

Here ...!

Ishida-san ...!

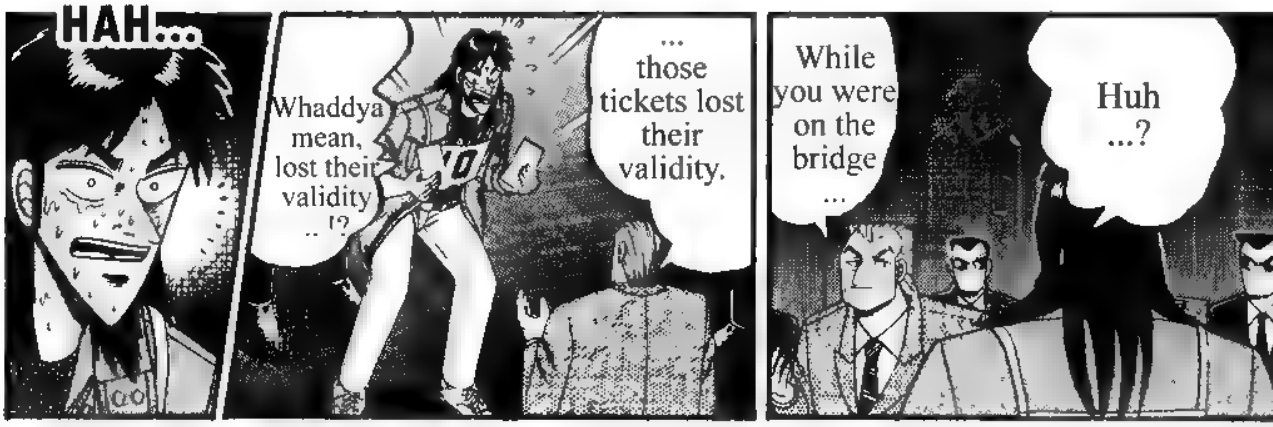



My apologies, Kaiji...

Hehehe ...
?.....

10

... but unfortunately those tickets have become invalid.
10


HAH...
Whaddya mean, lost their validity ..!?
... those tickets lost their validity.
While you were on the bridge ...
Huh ...?

There's still time ..
I don't care how long I was up there, there's no way it's 1:30...!
No way ...!
Did time run out ...!?

Don't you remember ...?
The reason you were disqualified lies elsewhere ...
No problem there ...
1:15...
: Hehehe
There still has to be some time left ...!
We quit, you hear me ...!?
We don't want the money ...!
Turn off the electricity ...!
... your exact words were ...
If I recall correctly ...
We turned the power off ...
We did exactly as you asked ...
Hehehe ...
What ...?

...
with regrettable consequence
...
...we may have been a little slow to cut the power
...
Of course
...
You did it
...
It was your own doing
...
But you see
...
Ahh
...
Truly a shame
...
It's most unfortunate
...
Hehehe
...
10
...
to claim the money!
You forfeited your right
...

You
...

You filthy rat ...!
You rat ...!
What're you trying to pull...!?
If you were gonna cut the power ...
... then you should've cut it right away!
It's a dirty trick ...!

What did everyone die for ...!?
... then what was it all for?
If these tickets are worthless ...
What was it all for ...!?
SOB
SOB SOB
I won't forgive you ...

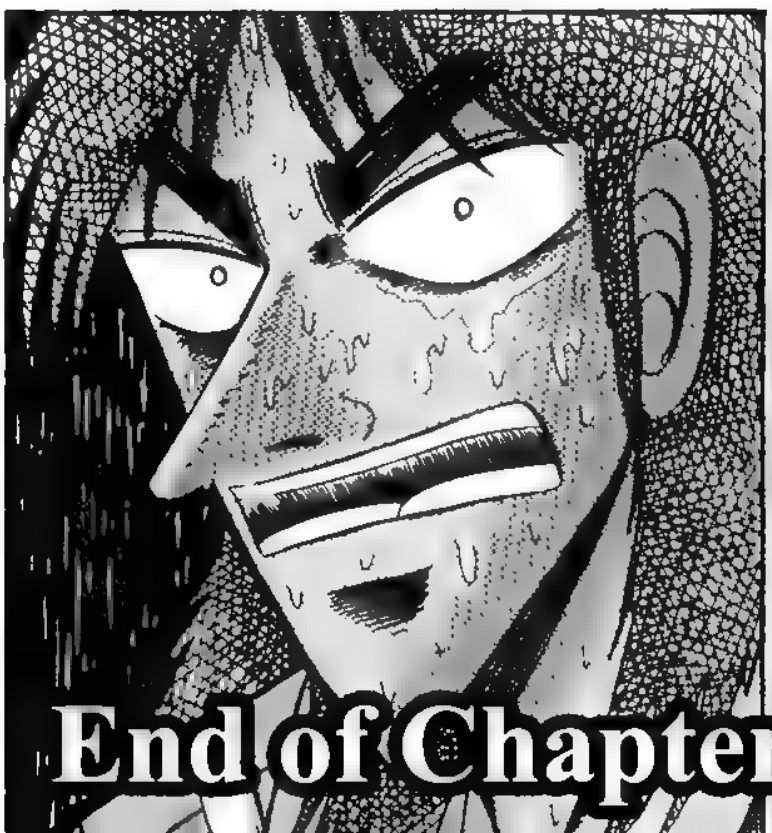
I'll never forgive you ..!
You snake ...!
I'll kill you ...!
Tonegawa ...!
My, my ...
Hehe ...

Tonegawa
You must admit ...
... the boy does have a point ...

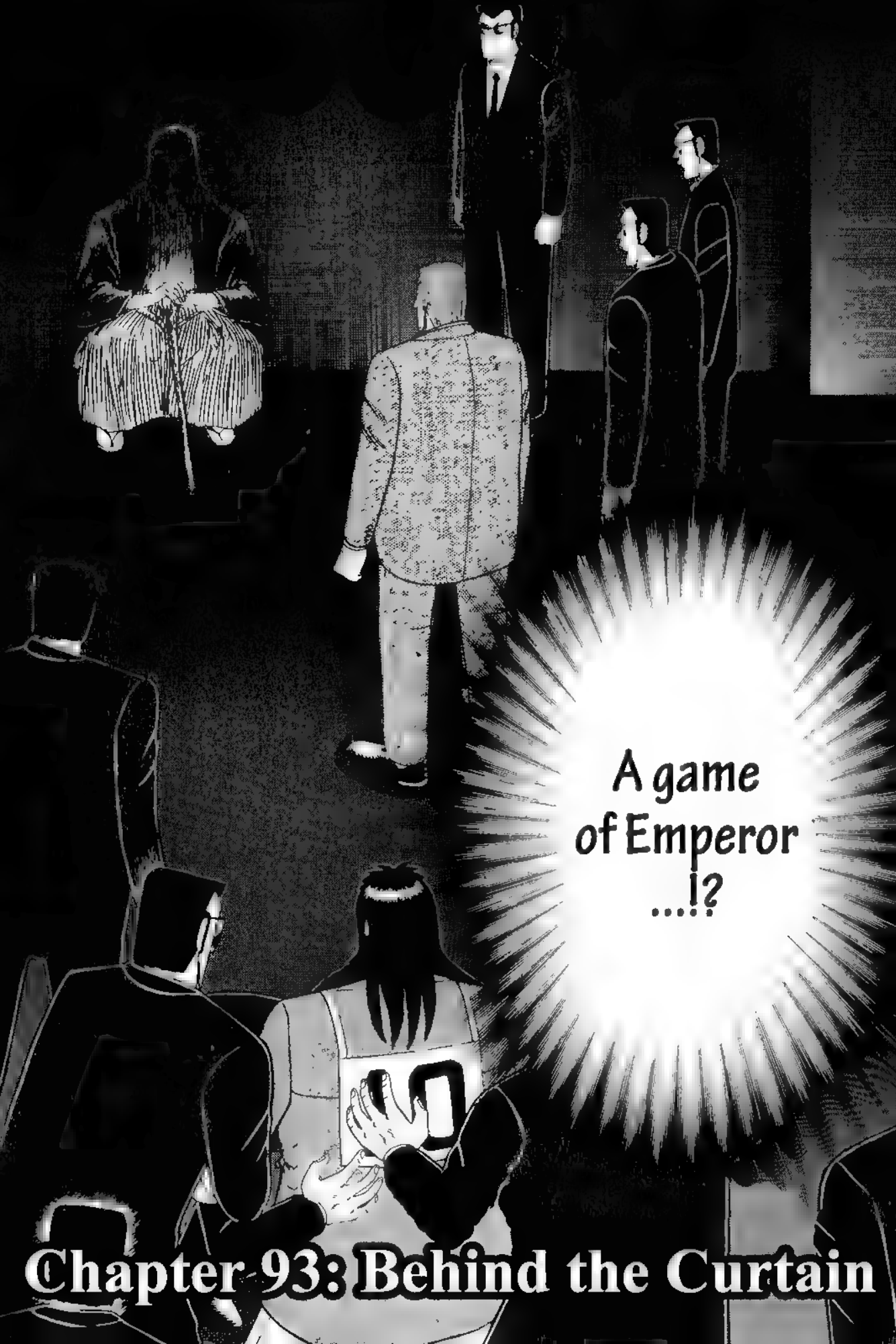
It's true ...

...and I suppose we must bear some of the blame for that ...
Your tardiness resulted in an accident...
You should have cut the power immediately ...

Tonegawa
Give the boy another chance ...
Sir ...
Don't you agree ...?

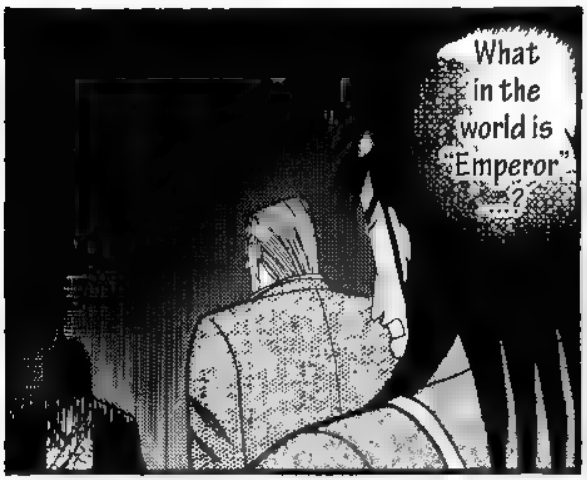


End of Chapter 92



Chapter 93: Behind the Curtain

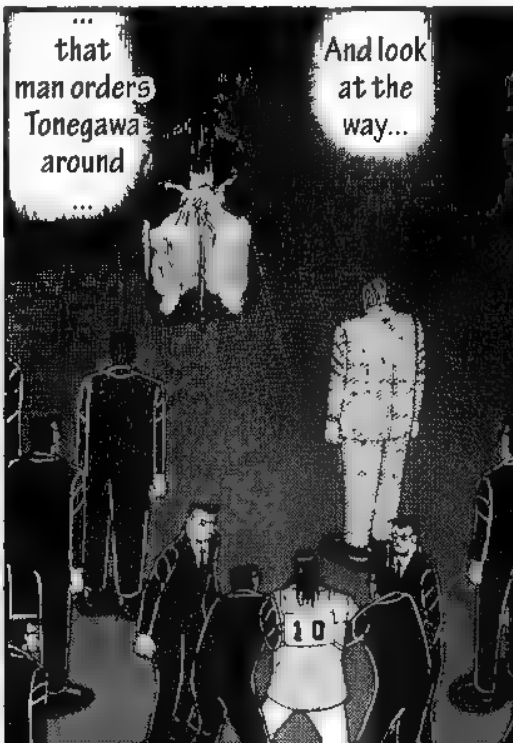
ざわ…
ざわ…


What in the world is "Emperor"…?

ざわ…

GASP

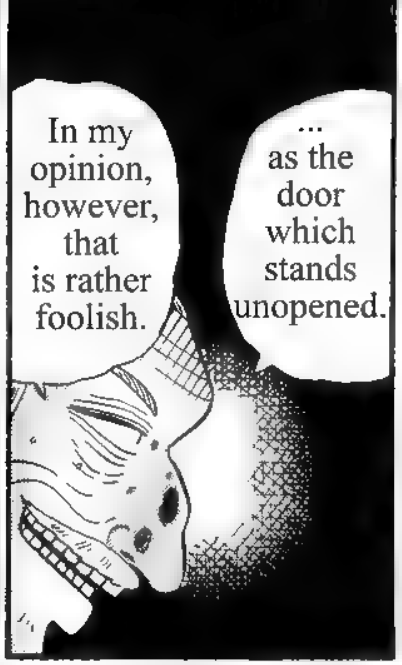
Who is he …!?

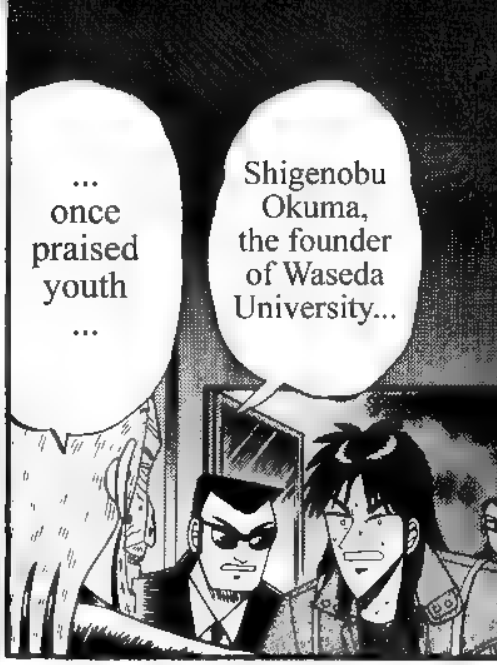

… that man orders Tonegawa around …
And look at the way…
10

It was his silhouette I saw back there ...!
Wait ...!
Now I remember ...
Does that mean ...
... that he's the boss, the "Don"?
SWOOSH
Behind this whole accursed bridge ...!?
Has he been behind all of this ...!?
10
Aahhh ...!
10
Ahh ...!

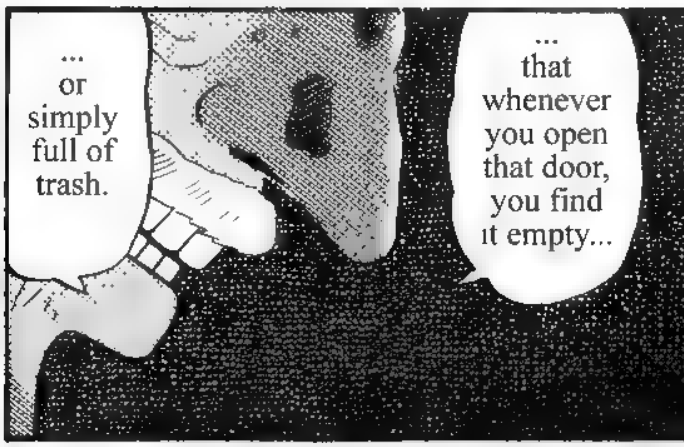
The man behind the curtain ...!?
Could he be the mastermind ...!?
Ah ...!
Hmph ...
Hehehe ...
Huh ...?
So will you play? A game of Emperor ...?
You see, great potential lies in the young ...

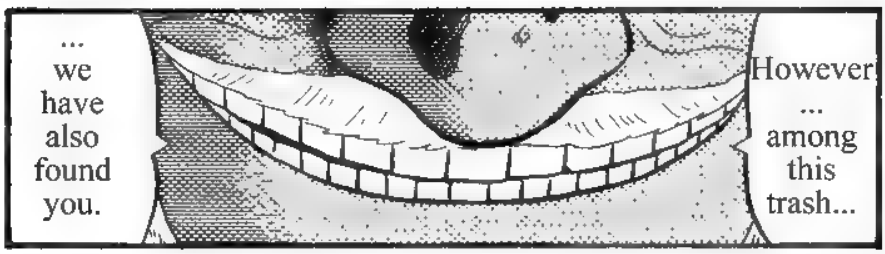
What matters is what is inside.
The door holds little worth in and of itself.
Lately, it seems ...


In my opinion, however, that is rather foolish.
... as the door which stands unopened.


... once praised youth ...
Shigenobu Okuma, the founder of Waseda University...

What terrible wastes of potential ...!


... or simply full of trash.
... that whenever you open that door, you find it empty...


... we have also found you.
However ... among this trash...

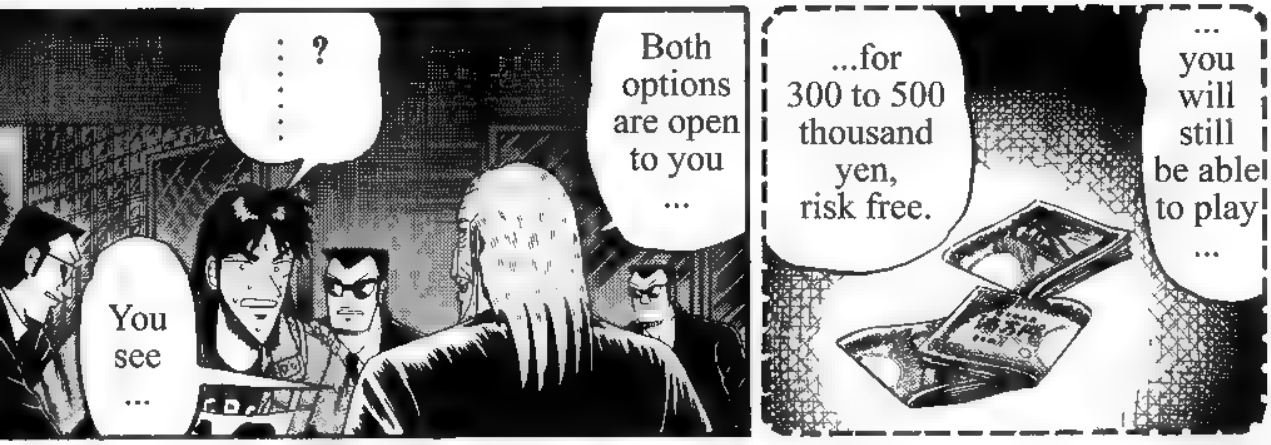
Hehehe ...
.....

Your success in crossing the bridge is enough for me to conjecture that.
Perhaps ...
You seem slightly more capable.

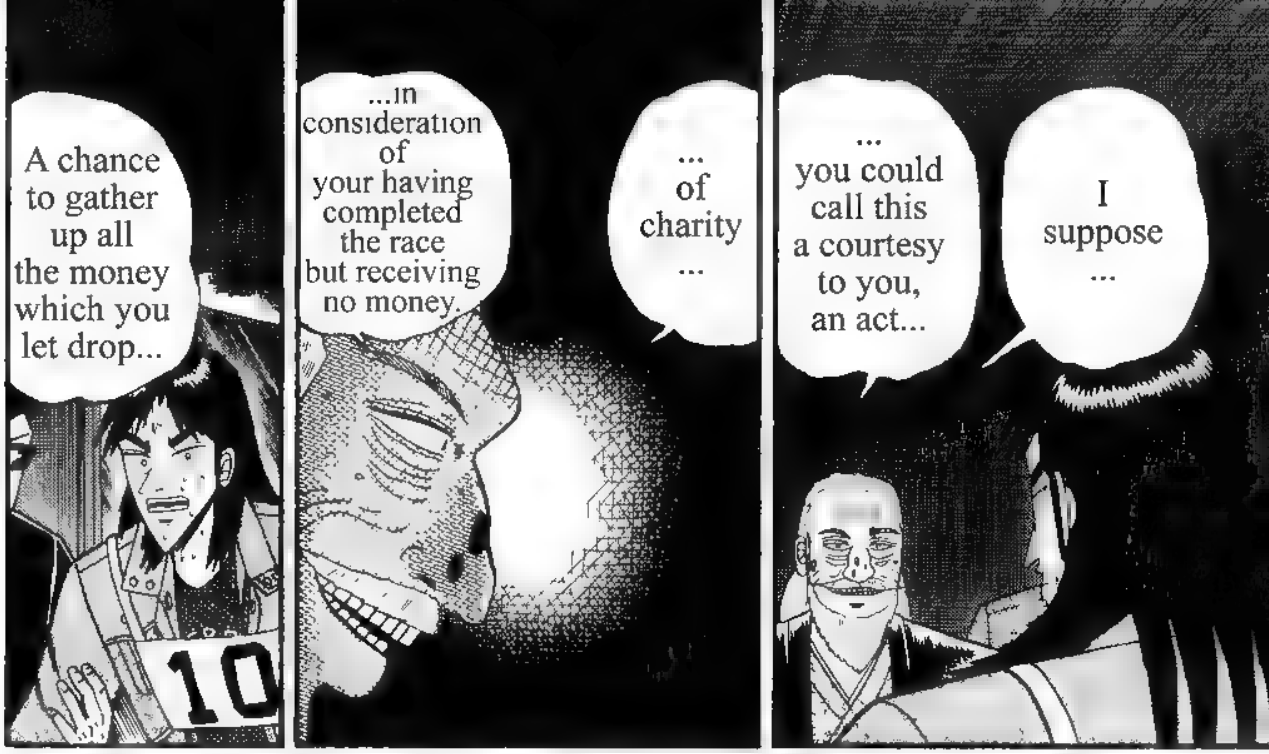
In truth, you've made me very curious.
Hmph ...
...there is something special about you!
... that I meet a young man such as yourself.
It's not everyday ...
... for myself.
I would like to test your mettle ...
.....
Do you understand ...?
.....
To size you up, so to speak ...
... and your staying power ...
...your resourcefulness...
Test your spirit ...

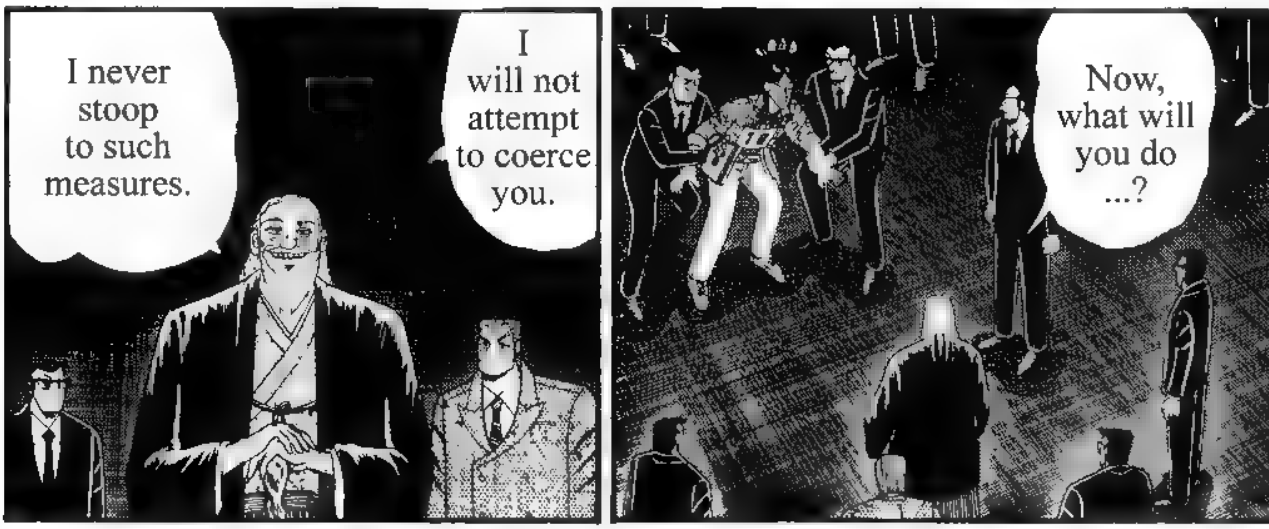
A game of bluffs, and secret maneuvers ...
It is a game of strategy which pits two players one against the other ...
... for me to take stock of your mettle...
... is the card game I just mentioned, Emperor.
The most effective way ...
... the assassin whom I appoint to face you in this game ...
If you do manage to surpass ...
Of course ...
... would be yours for the taking.
Not a mere 20 mil. yen, but 50 or 60 mil...
Naturally, in such an event, you would be rewarded well for your efforts.
... but to recognize you as a prodigy of uncommon worth.
... I would have no choice ...
10

If you have already grown sick ...
... of facing so much risk ...
... if you wish to decline ...
However ...
... must come with equally high risk.
... such high reward ...


Both options are open to you ...
? ? ? ? ? ?
You see ...
...for 300 to 500 thousand yen, risk free.
... you will still be able to play ...

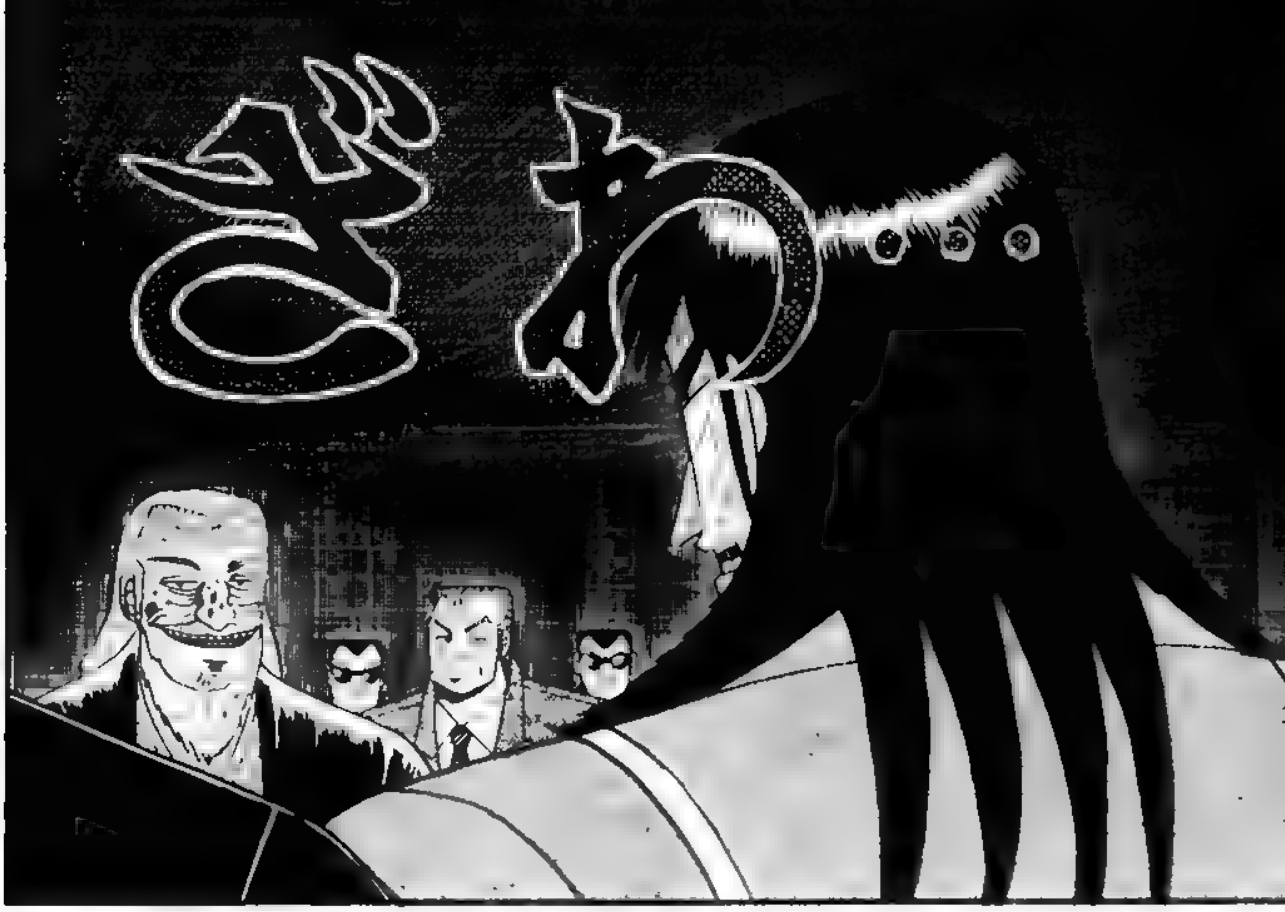
Of course, regardless of which you choose, both options...
... are excellent opportunities
This, of course, is part of what I meant when I said that I would test your mettle...
10
Hehehe ...
I have left a door for you, if you prefer to run.

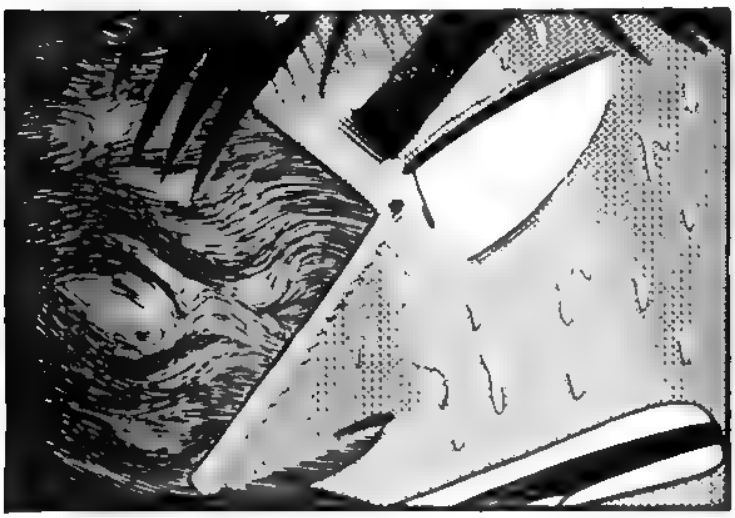

A chance to gather up all the money which you let drop...
10
...in consideration of your having completed the race but receiving no money.
... of charity ...
... you could call this a courtesy to you, an act...
I suppose ...

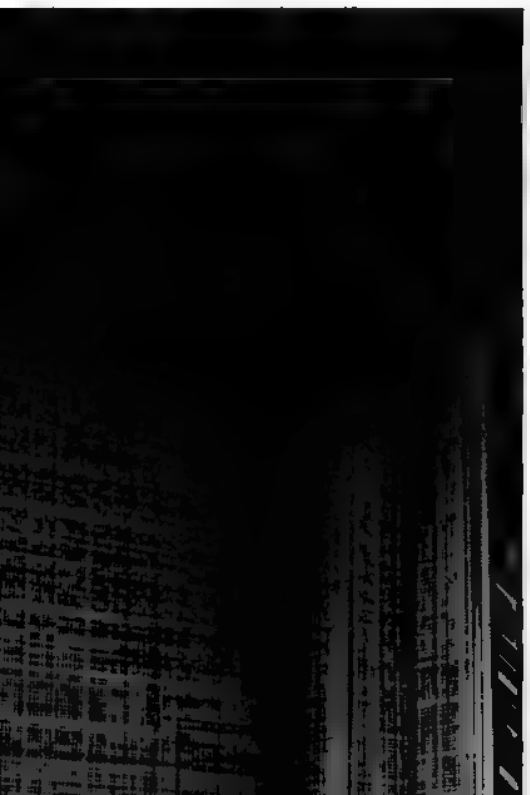

I never stoop to such measures.
I will not attempt to coerce you.
Now, what will you do ...?

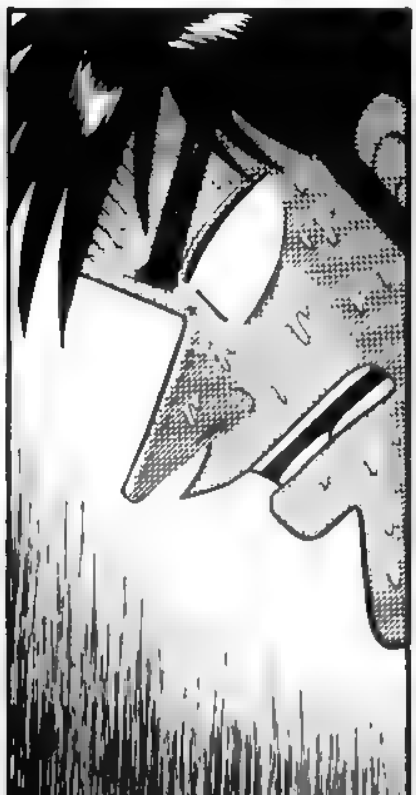
... as you are, empty-handed ...
You can leave ...
Or else ...
10
The decision lies entirely with you...!

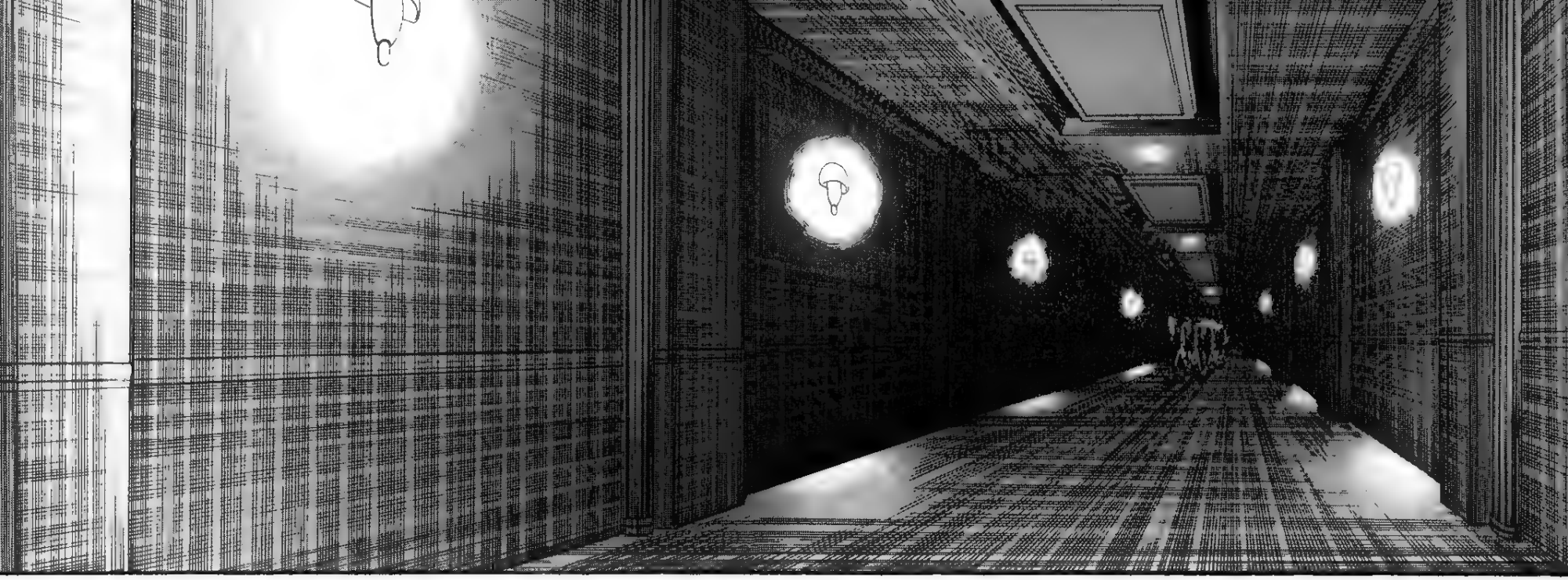
The choice is yours.
If you accept my offer ...
...then it will be my pleasure ...
... you can rally your spirits ...
... and face one more match.
... to show you to the playroom!
10


ゲホ







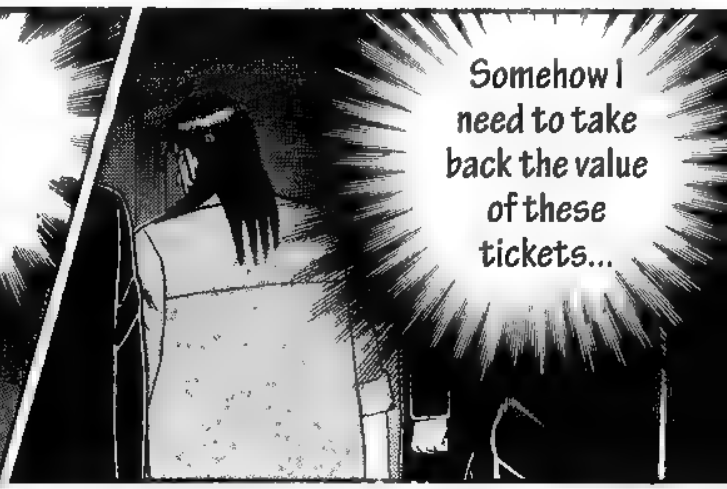


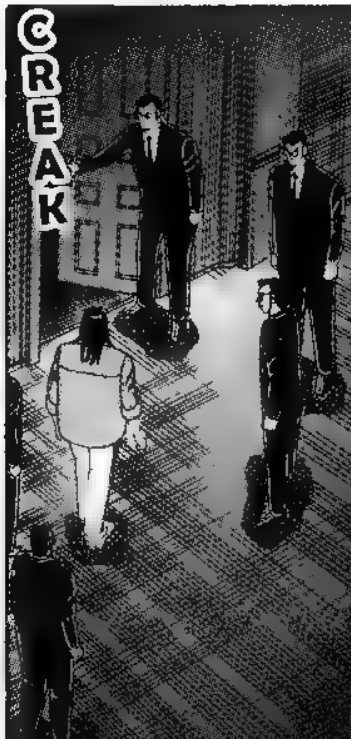
38

4
I can't go home like this ...!
ERS
38

Somehow, ...
I can't leave empty-handed...!
WHOOSH
I can't ...!
I have to bring something with me...!
Whatever happens ...
...risked our lives for have become worthless scraps of paper...
These tickets, the 20 mil. yen Ishida -san and I...
...will have been in vain!
If I go home empty-handed, then everything that we've done...
It isn't right that we lose everything for that...!
I won't stand for it...!
Stupid semantic trickery!
...whether they cut the power or not.
How were we to know...
It's too much...!

I can't back down ... not after they tricked me like that...!

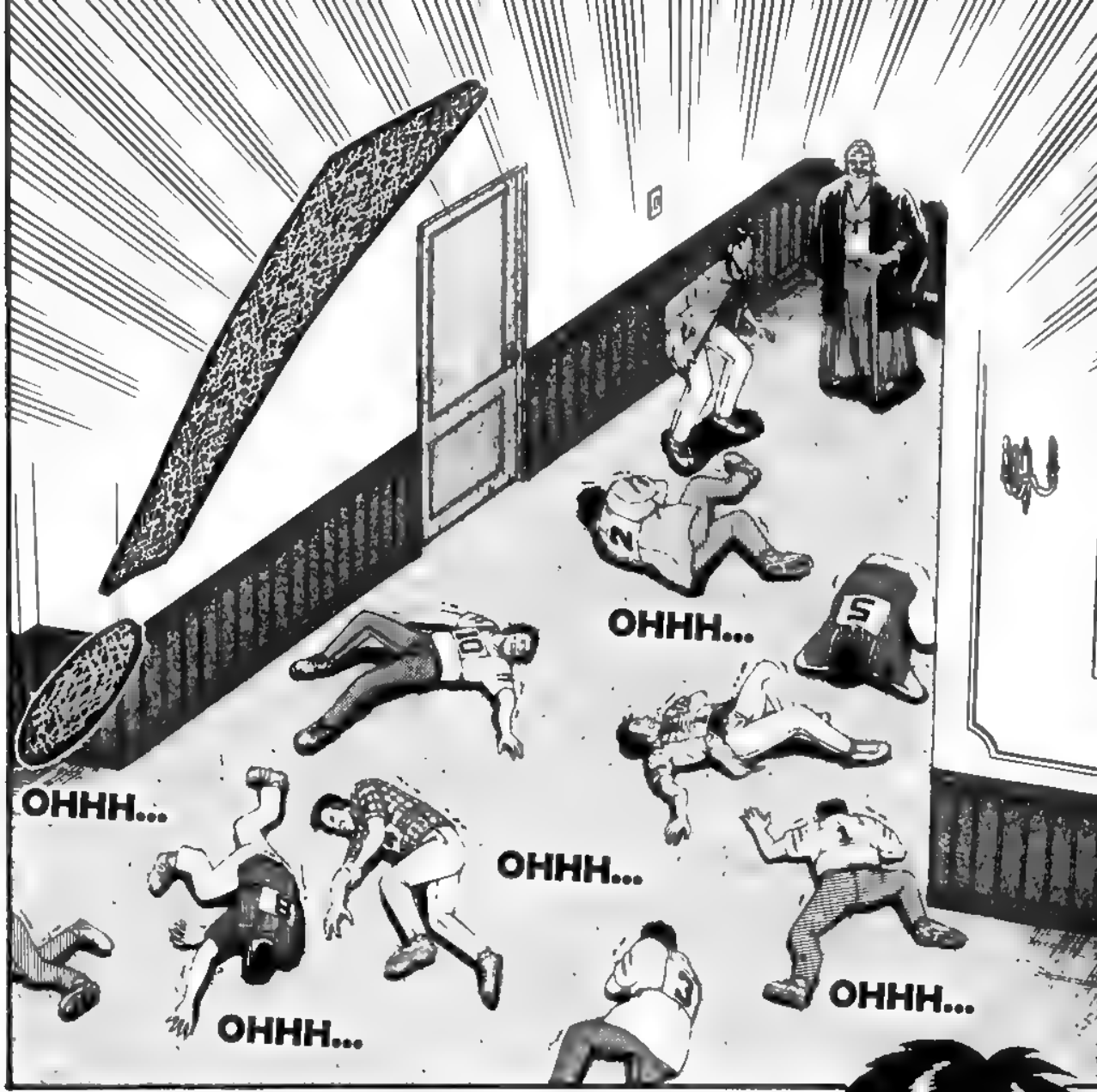


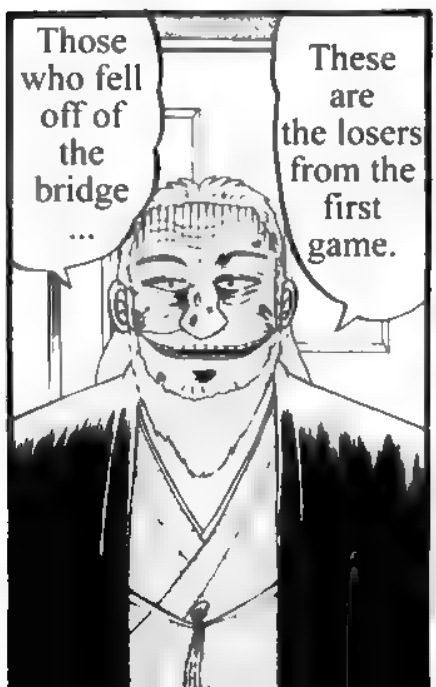


End of Chapter 93

Chapter 94: The Emperor

OHHH...
OHH...
OHHH...
Hmph
Woah ...!
Arrgggghhh...!
Huh ...?
FLICK
.....
Hehehe
STEP
OHHH...
OHH...
Those voices ...
Why is it so dark ...?
ERS
38
ERAMU


OHHH...
OHHH...
OHHH...
OHHH...
OHHH...


Those who fell off of the bridge ...
These are the losers from the first game.

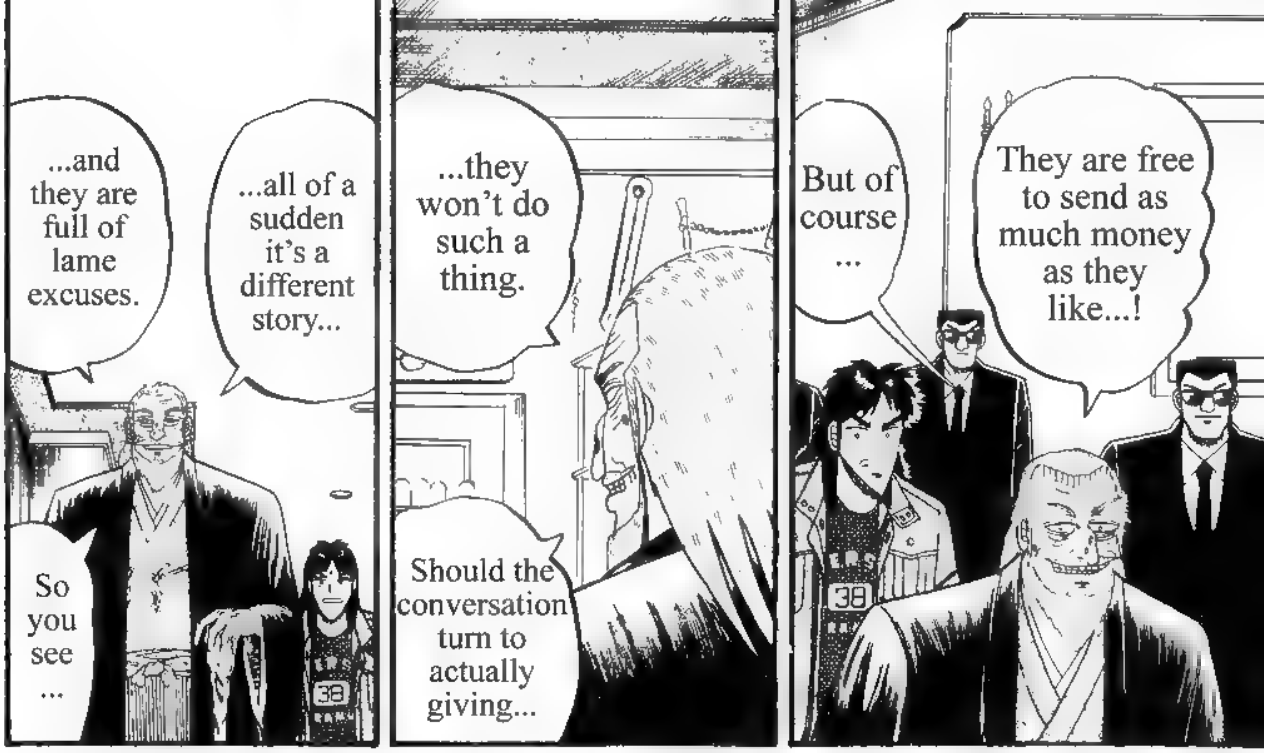
Wh- What is this ...?
: H e h e h e

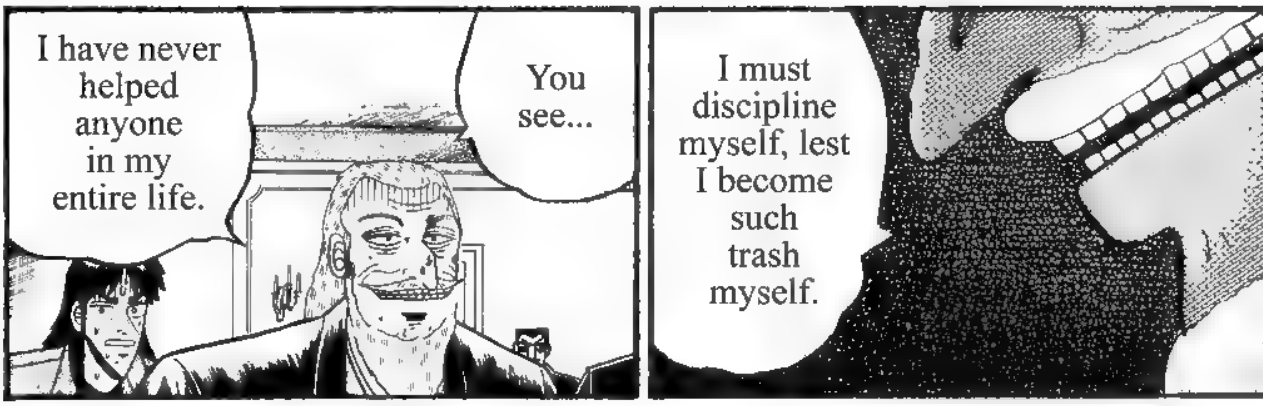
Ahh ...!

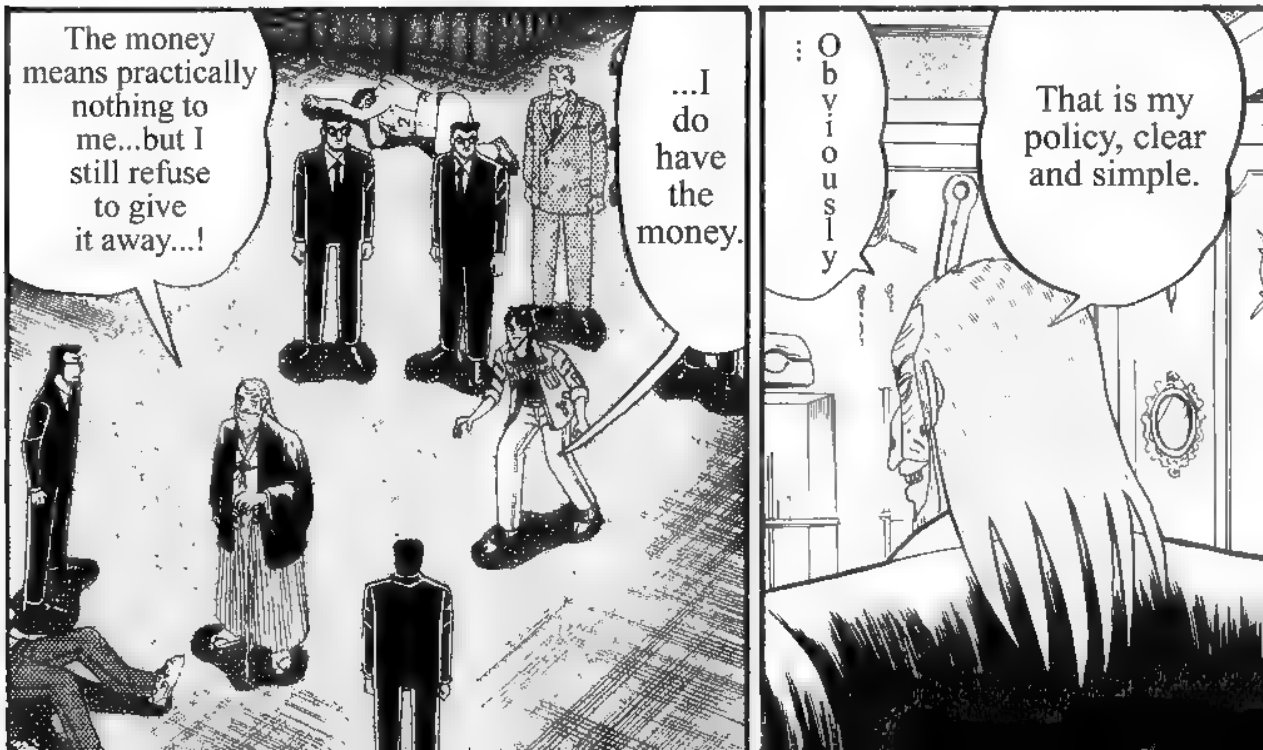
...were requested to stay, in exchange for a small gratuity.
Those whose lives were not in danger...
...were sent, by us, to the hospital.
Those requiring immediate care...
Hehehe
?.....
OHHH...
AHHH...
OHHH...

Why ...?
: Hehehe
...that this is, indeed, reality.
I constantly need to remind myself...
What ...?
I am teaching myself a lesson...

...by tens, hundreds of people, groaning in their despair.
Each life of plenty is supported ...
...of those who, writhing in their own misery, rail at the unfairness of life.
It goes without saying, but the world is full...
I am careful to remind myself of their importance.
These are the cold hard facts of life.
However ...
That is simply how the world turns.
That single life of plenty serves as the hope for those tens and hundreds of people.
...instead of their useless complaining?
...then why don't they send money...
If they really think such a thing ...
...those people disgust me.
...and claim that we should be helping one another.
There are also those in this world who cry over the unfairness of life...
The truth is...

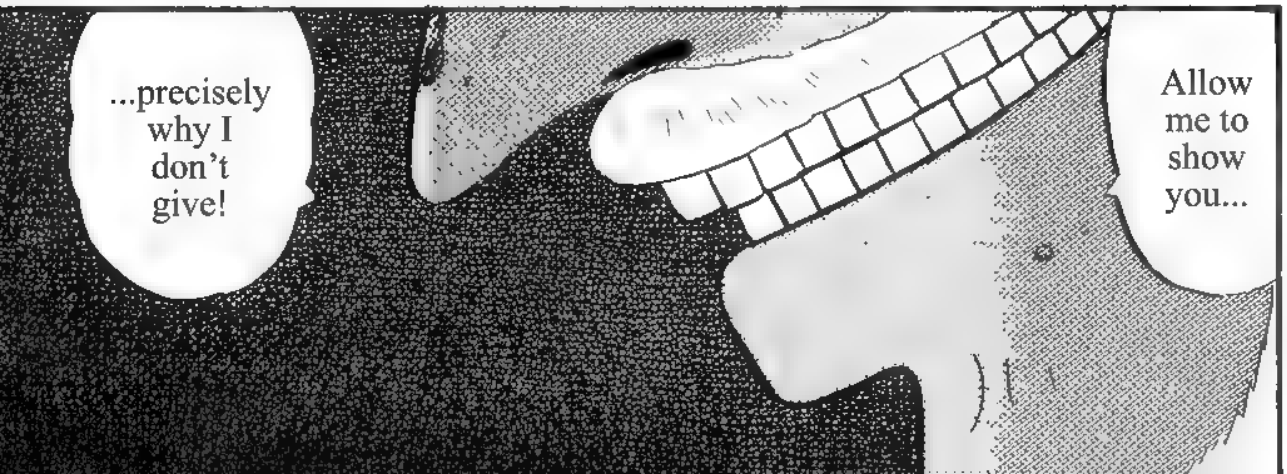

...and they are full of lame excuses.
...all of a sudden it's a different story...
So you see ...
...they won't do such a thing.
Should the conversation turn to actually giving...
But of course ...
They are free to send as much money as they like...!


I have never helped anyone in my entire life.
You see...
I must discipline myself, lest I become such trash myself.


The money means practically nothing to me...but I still refuse to give it away...!
...I do have the money.
Obviously...
That is my policy, clear and simple.

Hehehe
...
What do you mean ...?

And do you know why...?


...precisely why I don't give!
Allow me to show you...

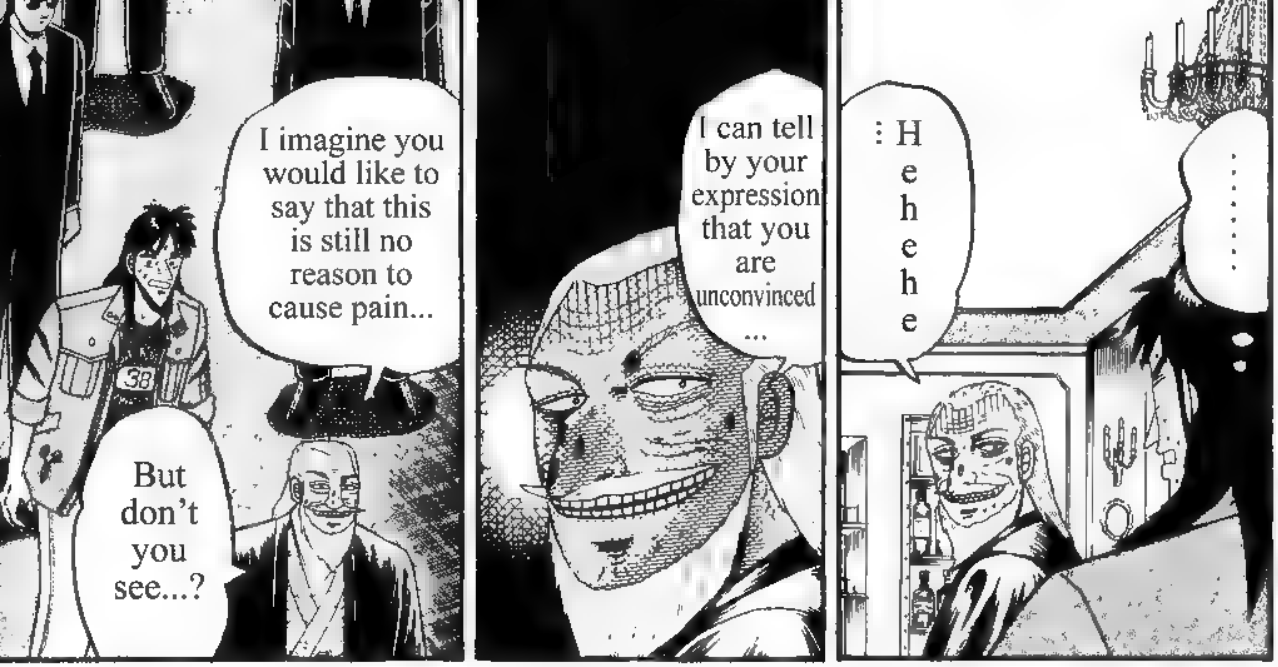
Arrgggghhhh...!
HRRK
Ahhhh...!
Hehehe...
Hehehe...
Wh...
What are you doing...!?
Kaiji-kun...

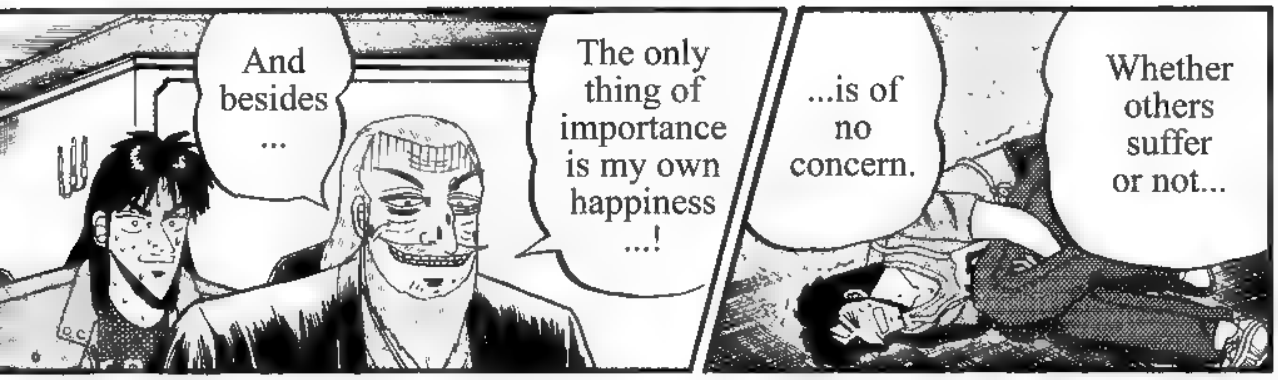
Aieee ...!
Aieee ...!
This is why...!
This is the point ...!
YANK
YANK
YANK
Aiieeee ...!

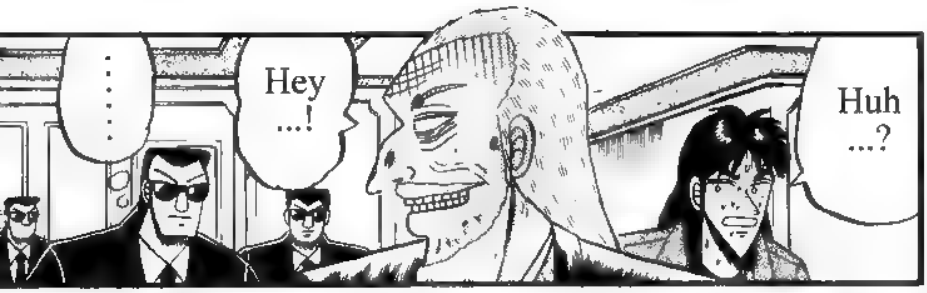
Hehehe ...
Stop it ...!

...while worrying his broken leg may hurt him ...
Just as you can see...
Huh ...?
OOHHH...
It's just as you see...

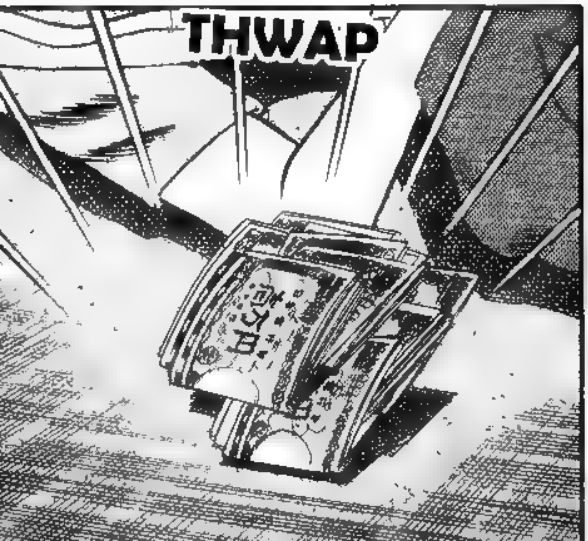
...it does not hurt me!
ERS
: Hehehe
Likewise, I doubt that you feel his pain either, Kaiji-kun.
Huh ...?
...is what separates the winners from the loser!
The ability to understand this fact...
...is the vital truth!
This... this here...
OHHH...


I imagine you would like to say that this is still no reason to cause pain...
But don't you see...?
I can tell by your expression that you are unconvinced ...
: H e h e h e
.....


And besides ...
The only thing of importance is my own happiness ...!
...is of no concern.
Whether others suffer or not...

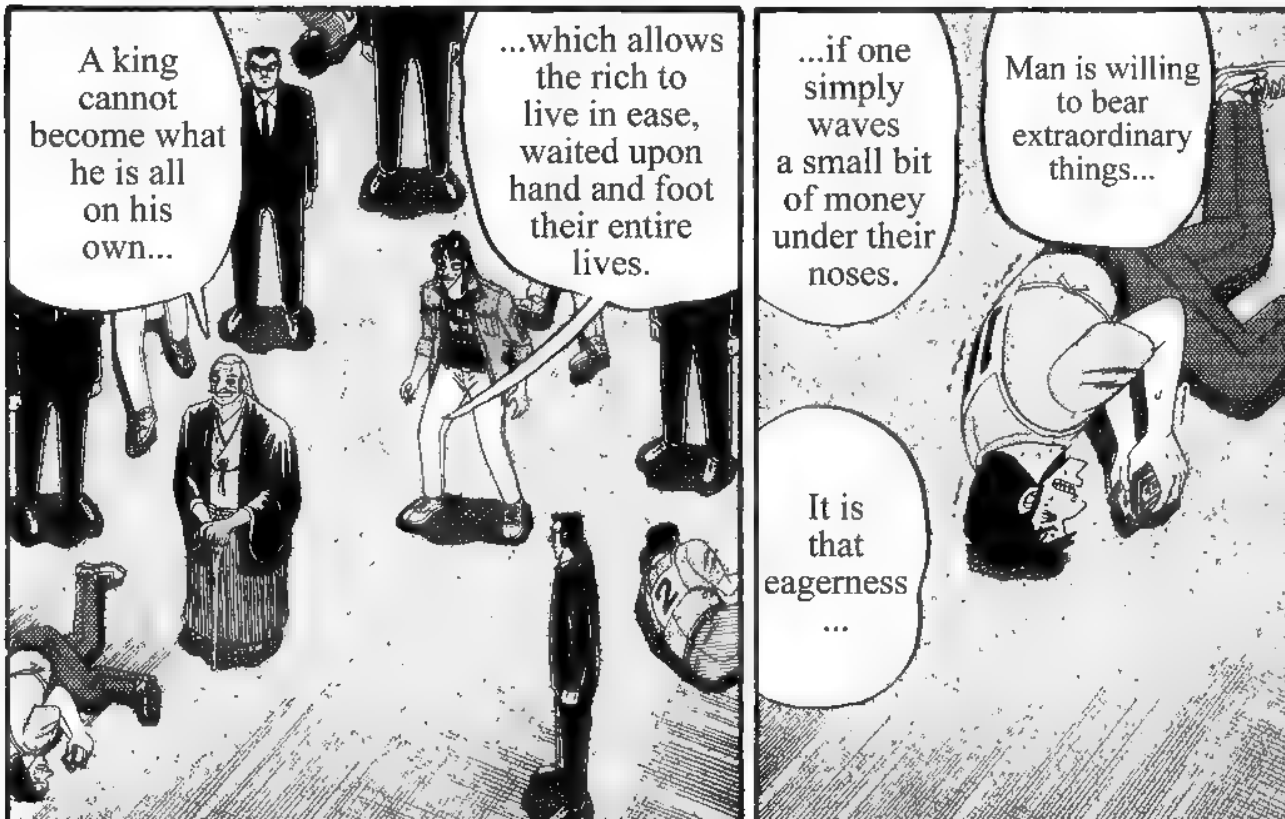

.....
Hey ...!
Huh ...?

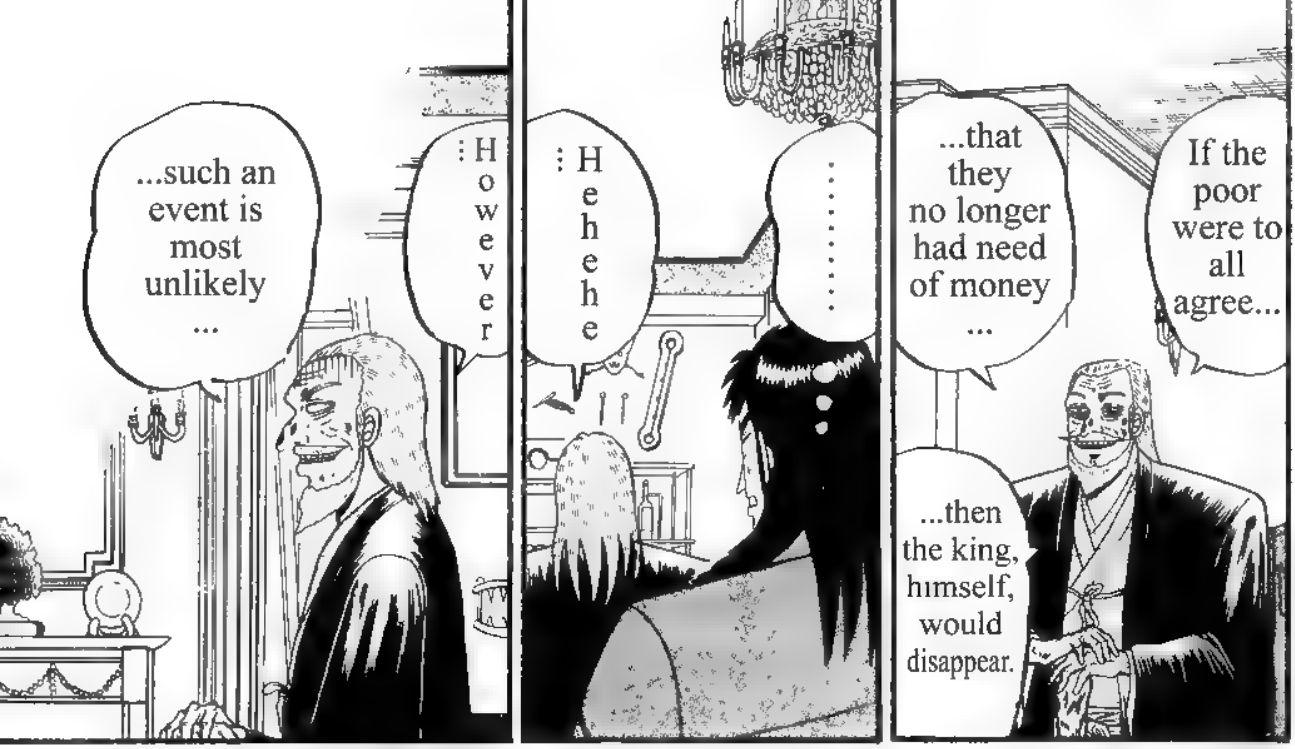
...without a doubt, this man wished for me to do as I did!

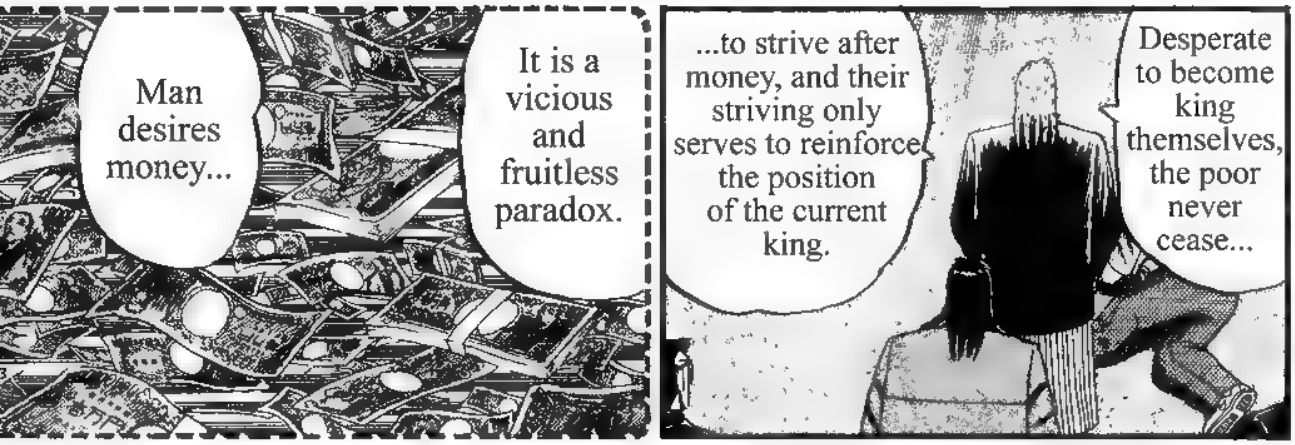

THWAP

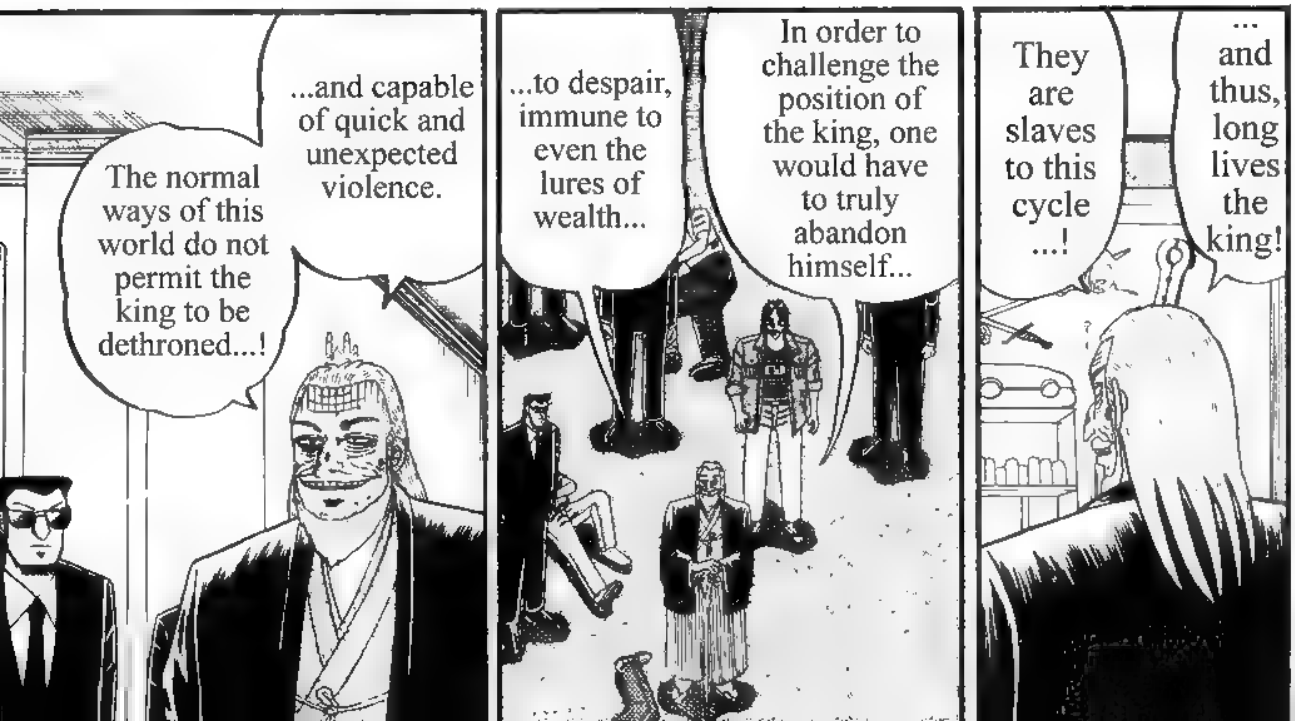
SWOOSH

Hah ...!
Hmph
Ahh ...
Ahh ... ahh ...
You see, these men know...
...that they will earn a bonus ...
You see ...
...in exchange for receiving my "patronage."


A king cannot become what he is all on his own...
...which allows the rich to live in ease, waited upon hand and foot their entire lives.
...if one simply waves a small bit of money under their noses.
Man is willing to bear extraordinary things...
It is that eagerness ...


...such an event is most unlikely ...
However
Hehehe
.....
If the poor were to all agree...
...that they no longer had need of money ...
...then the king, himself, would disappear.


Man desires money...
It is a vicious and fruitless paradox.
...to strive after money, and their striving only serves to reinforce the position of the current king.
Desperate to become king themselves, the poor never cease...


The normal ways of this world do not permit the king to be dethroned...!
...and capable of quick and unexpected violence.
...to despair, immune to even the lures of wealth...
In order to challenge the position of the king, one would have to truly abandon himself...
They are slaves to this cycle ...!
... and thus, long lives the king!

...though in truth...
...his own fair share of satisfaction...
He must dispense to each...
...not to allow such fools to arise.
A king, however, must be very careful...
.....
Hehehe...
...he works them to their very bones!
...so we have introduced a level of fancy as well.
Of course, a game based on simple reality would be insipid...
Tonegawa...
...is a reflection of just such a society.
The game you are about to play...

This way ...
Sir ...!
I leave the rest to you ...!
.....
Sit down ...
Hmph ...
CREAK
In Emperor we share 10 cards between the two of us...
Those cards consist ...
The game is simple, Kaiji...
.....
FW FWAP
Sir ...
Thank you ...

End of Chapter 94

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